A. W. HOYT'S

EXTRACTS.

Sketch Book No. 8.
From March 16th 1837
To April 21st 1837

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Principal Article,
a Journey to Genesee and
Residence at Phelps, 1801.


Sullivan's Expedition into the Country 1779 — — — — page 20
Biography of Col. Wm. Stevens 36
Lieut Boyd's cruel death — 27.
Effects of the Expedition under Sullivan — 31


Wilson's Foresters or Pedestrian tour
Appendix Note C.

I procured a quantity of dry goods with the intent of fixing myself in trade ~~of~~ or farming in the Genesee country, or some other place farther west, as circumstances should dictate and with a partner, on the 16th of February I sat out from Deerfield in a two horse sleigh; our route was through Charlemont, Williamstown & Troy to Schenectady; thence up the mohawk to Utica, and on the common road through Oneida and Onandago to Geneva in the County of Ontario. where we arrived on the 24th of February.

When we commenced our journey the ground was ~~deeply~~ covered with ~~snow~~ a good depth of snow; and on the summit of Hoosac mountain the quantity was so great and so drifted as to render the passage extremely difficult; but on descending into the valley west of the mountain, it began to decrease and at Williamstown we found ourselves on bare ground, with here and there a patch of ice, and were compelled to provide a wheel carriage for a few miles. But before we reached Troy the snow was found of good depth, and this continued until we reached within a few miles of Geneva. The deficiency of snow in the valley of Williamstown I am informed, is very common, but from what cause is not readily explained.

From Troy the ~~country~~ road up the mohawk to Utica, ~~the road~~ generally passed along a valley through old Dutch settlements and some villages ~~are~~ are seen, on the borders of alluvial flats. As we approached Utica the buildings along the road, assumed

of course our custom, for some time was rather limited; but we soon found it on the increase, and I became convinced that a full stone hue, would find good business.

Geneva, situated on the west bank of Seneca Lake at this time, had become a place of considerable note, ~~and~~ (Situated on the west bank of the Seneca Lake) near the north end ~~it~~ pretty on an elevation it was very pleasant, and contained ~~many~~ some handsome houses, among which was Powel's Hotel, ~~which~~ furnishing good accommodation and was a place of much resort; ~~and~~ A small ~~[illegible]~~ decked sloop plyed on the Lake between Geneva and its southern ~~[illegible]~~ extremity. Some of the people ~~are~~ from Europe, others from various parts of the United States, and many of the fashionable sort were found among them.

The village is within the limits of the town of Seneca, the ancient site of an Indian town, called Canadesago. On the road to Phelps is the old Indian Castle, a fine

farm, then owned by a Mr Castlinedon ~~and~~ containing a ~~fine~~ beautiful & extensive apple orchard, the sprouts of the trees cut down by Sullivans troops in the invasion of the country in 1779. where there is a ~~considerable~~ ~~cluster~~ sprinkling of houses. ~~Many campus of Sullivans troops are found in the vicinity of the old Castle where he encamped his army.~~

The town of Phelps has its name from Oliver Phelps, one of the original purchasers of the Country, from Massachusetts and the Indians. It is a good township of land, gently undulating and ~~is without any~~ destitute of high ~~high~~ hills. Settlements commenced here about 1790, and many framed houses have been erected, though the greatest part are log huts, yet comfortable places of residence. The inhabitants are a mixture from New England, the banks of the Hudson, Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland, among whom are ~~many~~ some respectable men.

— The township bounds. N: on Lyons,

east on the preemption line, or the
County of Seneca; south on Seneca
township and west on Manchester &
Hopewell; and is about 18 miles N & S.
and 8 east and west. Canandaigua
outlet and Flint creeks water the
northerly part; on the former is a
considerable quantity of alluvion,
and the latter furnishes good mill
sites at the village of Vienna, situated
at the junction of the two streams.
A plain eastward of Oak's tavern ap-
pears rather barren, and at first was
thought to be of little worth; but
by cultivation it is found to be
excellent grain land. It is a mixture
of sand, clay and lime and affords
excellent crops: and generally the
lands in the town ~~and~~ contain a
large quantity of lime intermixed
with the soil, and produce fine wheat.
as well as other crops. Beds of gyp-
sum are found in the town near
Vienna and begin to ~~afford~~ command consider-
able business at that place.
The settlement of the Genesee, now

composing the two Counties of Ontario and Steuben, has been rapid and perhaps without a parallel. In 1787 Massachusetts sold the tract to Messrs Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham for one million of Dollars, payable in consolidated securities, at par; the tract ~~[illegible]~~ about 6 millions of Acres. In July 1788, the purchasers ~~at a treaty held~~ met the Indians at Canadaqua, concluded a treaty with them ~~Indians~~, and extinguished their title to 2¼ millions of Acres, of the easterly part of the purchase ~~of Massachusetts~~. In 1789 ~~a land~~ an office was opened at Canandaigua for the sale of the lands, and settlers pressed in from all quarters; but the want of roads from the old frontiers was an embarrassment to emigration. By a census taken in 1790 it appeared there were only 960 souls, including scorecyons &c. on the tract.

The following account of the journey of a Gentleman into the Country, will shew the difficulties with which emigrants had to contend.

On the 15th of January 1792, we left Albany for the Genesee river. The road as far as Whitestown had been made passable for waggons; but at the Genesee River it was little better than an Indian path, just sufficiently opened for a sled to pass, and the most impassable streams bridged. From Whitestown the next 150 miles, we were not only obliged to take provisions for ourselves & horses, but also blankets as a substitute for beds. After leaving the town we found only a few straggling huts along the path, & the distance of 10 to 20 miles, and they afforded nothing but the convenience of fire and a kind of shelter from the snow. On the evening of the third day's journey, we were very agreeably surprized to find ourselves on the east side of Seneca Lake, which we found perfectly open & free from ice as in the month of June. The evening was pleasant and agreeable; and what added to our surprise & admiration, was to see a boat &

canoe plying on the Lake.

We then inspected the outlet of the Lake, and arrived at the settlement of Geneva, consisting of a few families who had been drawn thither from the convenience of the situation and beauty of the adjoining country.

From Geneva to Canandaigua the road is only the Indian path, a little improved, the first 5 miles over gentle swellings interspersed with bottoms seemingly very rich; the remainder of the road, 16 miles, was the greatest part of the distance, through a rich heavy timbered land. On this road were only two families settled. Canandaigua, the County town, consisted only two small frame houses and a few huts, surrounded with thick woods. Found there abundance of excellent venison. From Canandaigua to Genesee river, 24 miles, it is almost totally uninhabited, only four families residing on the road; the country heavily timbered with

with hill and dale; and in many places, openings of 200 or 300 acres, free from timber and even bushes, and ^is a deep rich soil."

At Genesee river, found a small Indian store & tavern, the river not frozen over. As yet there is no settlement of any consequence in the Genesee country. The establishment by a society of friends on the west side of Seneca lake is the most considerable, consisting of about 60 families. Through the mildness of the winter, the cattle brought into the Country the year before, are thriving well on very slender provision for their subsistence."

Notwithstanding the ~~old~~ imperfect state of the roads ^at that time immigrants continued to pour into the Country and settlements were made in various places. In the year 1797 the Legislature of N. York took the road from Utica to Geneva under their patronage, and by a lottery and private subscriptions the State Commissioner opened ~~the road~~ it nearly 100 miles, to a width of 64 feet and

rendered it passable for wheel carri-
ages; and on the 30th of September
a stage arrived at Geneva from Uti-
ca with 4 passengers, passing the distance
less than three days.

Settlements are now made
along the road, and when I passed
it in 180[illegible], houses were seen at short
distances: In many places villages ap-
peared either of framed or log houses
and a bridge of about a mile in
length, stretched across Cayuga lake.
Such a change from a wilderness to
a cultivated country, within the
space of eight years, has seldom
been witnessed.

For a few of the first years the settlers
were afflicted with febrile diseases,
as in all new countries in our Lat-
itude; but while I resided in Phelps
I saw nothing of them: the people
appeared as healthy as those of the
old settlements, and generally
possess the necessaries & even luxuries of life in abund-
ance. No description can do justice
to the excellent qualities of their wheat
land

on which the poorest of the settlers feed. Venison, and lake fish, are obtained of the Indian hunters, at a cheap rate. One great error from which few of the first settlers escaped was an excessive use of whisky, and many became tipplers, even those who never indulged in this excess previous to their emigration. This evil resulted from their condition on their first settling down in the woods. Coming from old settlements where cider, beer and other mild stimulants are used, and finding nothing but water for drink, and this often not very pure they feel the want of something more exhilarating; and as whisky is plenty and cheap, they commence the use of it, an artificial appetite is soon created, which increases with time, and at length becomes ungovernable. The evil might generally be avoided, by the use of family beer, made from vegetables found in the woods, and maple sugar or molasses which they manufacture.

Among the immediate cause, the opinion prevails that the waters in Geneva, are more mild than in corresponding latitudes on the seaboard. Whether this is a fact I am not certain. When I arrived at Geneva the snow was nearly gone, and Seneca Lake was open and entirely free from ice; and I am informed that in no winter since the commencement of the settlements, has that lake been covered with ice. Cayuga Lake about 12 miles east of the Seneca, and nearly of the same size, generally freezes in the winter, and on my passage, I crossed it on a firm bridge of ice. Why the Seneca should remain open is a question to be solved by principles unconnected with the temperature of the air.

The water of this lake is very deep, and it is formed by [illegible] observation that deep waters are not so easily frozen over as those of small depth, and this

is explained on the following well known ~~principle~~ facts. When the particles at the surface are cooled by the incumbent air, they become specifically heavier than those below ~~them~~, and of course descend, giving place to warmer particles: these in turn ~~are cooled~~, part with their calour and descend giving place to others from below; and thus an intestine motion is kept up, until the water below, becomes equally cooled with that at the surface. When the water is of great depth, it requires time to reduce it to an equilibrium by this process; and throughout ~~in the course~~ of the winter it may remain too warm on the surface to freeze. Cayuga Lake is said to be of much less depth than the Seneca; and hence, by the process described, becomes cooled throughout its mass, and freezes. From this it appears that the openness of the Seneca in winter, depends on its great depth. and is no proof of the higher temperature

perature of the climate of Genesee, above that on the seaboard

But another cause has been assigned for this ~~higher~~ temperature of the winter of Genesee. viz the contiguity of the great lakes, which ~~is not~~ never freeze. The northerly & westerly winds, which bring cold air to New England are supposed to become warmer in their passage over these vast bodies of water and to reach the Genesee country with a higher temperature than in countries at a distance. This probably has some effect on the westerly & northern winds. But before the fact of the higher temperature of the winter air of Genesee, can be established, a series of thermometrical observations must be made, and compared with those made at a distance under the same latitudes.

There may be atmospheric operations going on in mountainous countries which affect the temperature. Covered as the genesee generally

in the winter
~~in our latitude~~, with deep snow
the currents of air when they reach ~~them~~ us
from a ~~low flat~~ high region may be cooled
and ~~warm~~ conveyed a low country to leeward
with a lower temperature. Hence
the coldness of the westerly winds
in Massachusetts, after their passage
over the Hoosac range. Another
effect of mountains is to produce
a descent of the air of the upper
atmosphere, which is always
cold. The Genesee is a level country
and of course is not subject to the
mountain influences.

Among the singularities of the Country
may be noted the numerous organic ~~petrifac-~~
~~tions~~ remains found in the lime stone rocks.
on which the soil is incumbent, but
often rise to the surface. In this
rock we find petrifactions resembling
sea shells, roots, ~~bon~~ branches of trees,
and other substances, retaining in
many instances, their most delicate form.
In some rocks they ~~seem to form~~ constitute the
immense mass, ~~or aggregate~~, but may
be detached by the hammer. Some of

the shells are beautifully fluted resembling those I have seen on the sea coast; but probably they are freshwater productions. Others found in the rocks resemble ~~[illegible]~~ surfaces of considerable length, and are supposed by some to be petrifications of that animal; but to me they ~~were~~ resembled the roots of trees. Forms are also seen resembling very accurately the nest of the wasp and are so called by the people.

In a field a small distance north of Oaks' tavern, I noticed a considerable surface of lime stone rock of a singular structure. The whole surface is broken, or separated, into pretty regular parallelograms, of about 4 by 6 feet, with ~~[illegible]~~ spaces of about one foot between them. They rest in a very regular form and at the first view I thought them artificially arranged. But on a close inspection they seem to have been ~~[illegible]~~ broken up like the surface of a bed of clay when left to dry in the sun.

In these rocks are found many

petrifactions, quarcelly, Phulince, lignite
These singularities in the surface of the ground indicate that ~~it~~ the country has been covered by water, and that the lime stone rocks were formed by deposition of the matter which composes them. might not Lake Ontario, have been once barred at its outlet, at its eastern extremity, so high as to inundate the country lying south? Or must we look to the Wernerian hypothesis, to explain the phenomena?

Besides these ~~singularities~~ organic remains, there are others, curiosities, in this town which excite enquiry. A ~~gentleman~~ Farmer Mr R Field ~~here~~, conducted me to what is supposed an ancient fortification, in the western part of the town. It is situated on an elevation, covering about 2 acres of an elliptical form; the ditch and parapet are distinctly seen, on which trees of a considerable size ~~are seen~~ have grown. There ~~are~~ several gateways or passages through the works; where the hill is most abrupt the parapet is less elevated. I discovered no plants ing points resembling those of modern

fortification. Whether any other ancient relics have been found here I am not informed. The work appears more distinct than some I have seen of the same kind, and is doubtless ancient; but I think it an Indian structure for defence, as are those so plentifully found in the country further west. The land about this work is now clearing and in a short time, probably the place will be obliterated or forgotten.

On the 7th of March my partner sat out on his return to Deerfield and left the goods to my management; and as I sold only for prompt pay the business was rather slow. To fill up my leisure hours I sometimes made visits to Geneva, where is a post office, and newspapers which are seldom seen at Phelps. In one of these trips accompanied by Mr Samuel Oaks, with whom I boarded, to avoid the mud road we passed over several

old Indian fields, in the vicinity of the old castle, and noticed the marks of their cultivation. The hills of the indian corn were ~~hum~~ seen, and many bones, the remains of Genl Sullivans horses, lay scattered about the fields. At this place his army encamped ~~and~~ while destroying the crops of the Indians, and their orchards. At Geneva we were informed that Mr Jefferson had been elected President of the United States, after a violent contest in Congress — the first certain intelligence we had ~~received~~ obtained. The result of the election was received with much exultation by the democrats but with deep regret by the federalists. A majority of the people, however, ~~were~~ are pleased with the choice.

The lands at and about the old castle are fertile, and ~~several~~ houses line the road. The Crittenden farm, somewhat larger, lying around, ^ behind, is fine, & his buildings ^ are in the best order. The sprouts from the stumps of the trees cut down by Sullivan, are thrifty and now bear an abundance of fruit. In many instances were ~~the~~ 6 good sized ~~trees~~ are seen ^ growing from the same stumps. This must have been a pleasant dwelling for the

Seneca ~~tribe~~ nation ~~which~~ part of which was ~~[illegible]~~ here situat-
ed, and previous to the war of our
revolution. Soldiers who were with
Sullivan often visit the spot, and re-
cently one ~~[illegible]~~ came well to look for valuable ~~[illegible]~~
articles which he stated had been
here buried by the soldiers.

~~The expedition of Genl Sullivan was a severe chastisement to the Indians for what they did, [illegible] though it did not entirely put them [illegible] or [illegible] Sullivan's Expedition of [illegible] There [illegible]~~

It is believed that our Historians of the Revolution have not
given full details of the expedition
of Sullivans, and pointed out the route of the army
through the country in the more
minutenes. I have been acquainted
with several ~~officers~~ who were in
the expedition, from whom I have
received verbal details, from which
and other publications, the
following is ~~collected~~ compiled.

Genl Sullivans Expedition, 1779.

At the commencement of the war
of the revolution, the Indians were nu-
merous on our frontiers, and though
scattered over a great extent of coun-
try, had many compact villages &
cultivated the fertile lands in their
vicinity. The confederacy called

Six nations, inhabited an extensive tract of Country between the middle States, New York and Canada embracing the Genesee tract. Aware of the importance of a friendly ~~in~~ ~~because~~ ~~with~~ disposition of the tribes, Congress early took measures to ~~preserve~~ foster it, with the hopes at least of keeping them neutral. A considerable sum of money was granted for the purchase of goods to be distributed among them, but all the exertions of Congress were found insufficient for the security of their friendship and the frontiers. A majority of the tribes took side with Great Britain, and committed ~~horrible~~ depredations on the frontier towns. Several small expeditions were occasionally fitted out, and various attacks were made on their villages; but all to little effect. The Oneidas and a few others lent their aid to the States; but their numbers were few. Thus circumstanced, Congress resolved to push ~~send~~ a strong force into the territory of the Indian ~~Six nations~~, for the purpose of destroying their villages & subsistence and rendering them less formidable & troublesome to our frontiers. In July 1779 a detachment of nearly 3000 men was made fro

the continental army, and put
under the command of Genl. John
Sullivan, a New Hampshire officer
Several pieces of light artillery,
mounted on carriages, suitable for
~~the passage of~~ traversing the woods, were furnish-
ed, and 1400 horses accompanied
the detachment for the transport-
ation of the baggage and artillery
Another detachment of about
1500 men, under the command of
Gen. James Clinton, was ordered to ~~march~~
embark in boats at Schenectady, proceed up the
Mohawk to Otsego Lake and descend ~~a~~ the east branch of
the Susquehanna, to join Sullivan
at Tioga point. The Indian and
tory force at this time was about
800, headed by ~~Col~~ Sir John Johnson ~~and Ma~~ Col
~~jor~~ Butler and the Indian Chief Brant, who had
been very active in their depredations
on our frontiers.

Sullivan assembled his ~~force~~ army at
Easton, in the month of July, and thence
marched ~~across~~ into Pennsylvania to
Wyoming on the Susquehanna, where
he halted several weeks for a re-
inforcement of men and supplies of
provisions.

From Wyoming Sullivan continued
his march up the Susquehanna to Tio-
ga Point without any ~~[illegible]~~ savages obstruct-

from the enemy, who hovered about
his front, watching an opportunity to
attack him by surprise.
At Tioga point the forces under
Genl Clinton from N York joined Sullivan,
~~force~~, having descended the East branch
of the Susquehanna in boats. The
water of this ~~branch~~ river being ~~low~~ shallow, Clinton
adopted a novel mode to ~~overcome~~ ~~remove~~
~~the difficulty~~ facilitate the passage of his boats. And with great industry
he raised a dam across the outlet
of Lake Otsego, one of the head ~~branch~~
waters of the river; the lake soon
rose to the height of the dam, and
having ~~got~~ his boats in readiness, he
opened ~~a~~ a passage for the water,
~~and~~ floated down the full stream
and joined Sullivan, without accident.
The army now amounted to between
4000 & 5000, a force ~~mighty~~ much superior
to any that could be brought against
it by the enemy. (~~After remaining four~~
Sullivan, with his united forces then continued his march up
the ~~east~~ Tioga branch to Newtown, where
the ~~Indians~~ enemy had taken post, and
constructed strong breast works to
oppose his progress. An attack was
resolved on, the immediate and the cutting of and
a line in from the works. The enemy
acted with resolution, and stood
the cannonade several hours; until Brigadier Genl.

From being attacked on a detour round [a] mountain, to fall upon the rear of the [illegible] they gave way, and commenced a precipitate flight, leaving a quantity of camp equipage. Sullivan, unencumbered [illegible] then continued his march, with no further opposition, [illegible] a trifling skirmish at a small (breastwork) works the enemy had constructed in the woods in front of a small opening. (see Sullivan's)

On the 31 of July the army reached Catharine's town near the head of Seneca Lake, at about 12 o'clock on a dark night, having passed several dangerous defiles bounded by hills and swamps, where a fire of the enemy might have presented formidable opposition, which however they omitted, believing that Sullivan would not adventure through so dangerous a pass in the night.

The Indians seeing they could not successfully contend with the formidable force under Sullivan, retired before it, and watching any opportunity that might present, for cutting off detached parties.

The march of the army from Catharine's town was continued down the east side of Seneca Lake and by its northern shore to Geneva, then Canadasaga, a pleasant Indian town

Through the woods the march was made with great caution. Where the ground was level as it ~~is~~ was generally, the troops advanced in a hollow square or parallelogram, with advanced and flanking parties; the artillery 5 light pieces and pack-horses within, and in this order it encamped at night. Either face of the square was sufficient to repel any force the enemy could bring against it; and should circumstances require a different formation, in case of an attack, it could be effected by very simple means. One practice of ~~the~~ Gen. Sullivan ~~commander~~ has been censured: he caused the morning gun to be fired invariably, than which nothing could have been more advantageous to the enemy, in ascertaining the position and progress of the army.

At the old Seneca Castle, near Geneva, large fields of Indian corn were destroyed, as well as an extensive apple and peach orchard with all the fruit.

From the old castle the army advanced through the forest to ~~the village of~~ Canandaigua, then an Indian ~~castle~~ village of 23 [illegible] which with the ~~[illegible]~~ crops shared the fate of those around Geneva, but the Indians were seldom seen.

The march thence through the pathless country northward by the outlets of Honeoye & Hemlock lakes, to the head of Conesus lake, was made without interruption; and here the army encamped, and ~~small~~ parties were ordered to reconnoitre the country.

The army was now in the vicinity of the noted flats on the Genesee river, called Big-Tree, a tract of uncommon ~~unprecedented~~ fertility, occupied by the Indians previous to Sullivan's approach; and whether they had strong ~~[illegible]~~ parties in the vicinity was not known. The reconnoitring parties sometimes fell in with them but their numbers were few. On these marches the utmost ~~great~~ caution was necessary to avoid ambuscades. (cabinet [illegible], or a quilted leaf purse giving [illegible]) [illegible] concluded."

One officer ~~[illegible]~~, who commanded one of these parties gave (me) the following account. Passing through woods to a small opening he came to a plum ~~[illegible]~~ tree loaded with fruit, exceedingly tempting to the eye, and ~~[illegible]~~ his men were desirous of procuring some of the ~~fruit~~ strong treasure by ascending the tree. Aware of the danger he first objected to the attempt; but at length ~~he~~ gave consent to one active Sergeant; but with orders to carry his musket up the tree with him, and to look out sharply

for Indians who might be secreted, in the vicinity ~~of the station~~. The sergeant mounted the tree ~~[struck]~~, and while the officer's eye was upon him, he saw him suddenly bring up his piece, present & fire. At the same time was near the spot, he ... behind which lay a small party of Indians ready to ~~fire~~ attack, whom the sergeant discovered as soon as he had gained a small elevation, and by his dexterity, gave the first shot, on which the Indians instantly retreated into the woods. Probably they ~~Indians~~ delayed their fire to give ~~others~~ an opportunity for others to ~~[struck]~~ assemble, when they might quit more ... fatally.

The following disastrous affair occurred while the army was near Canesus Lake. Lieut Thos. Boyd a gallant officer of ~~Morgan's~~ the rifle corps, was detached with 25 men to reconnoitre ~~the ground~~ an Indian village near Big-tree, distant about 7 miles; a friendly Indian of the Oneida tribe accompanying the party as a guide. Boyd left the camp about midnight, and reached the skirts of the village before day-light ~~[struck]~~ found it deserted. Secreting his party near the village, he lay still 'till morning; when two Indians were seen in the plain, one on horse-back, the other leading a cow,

Two men ~~were ordered to reconnoitre the~~ advanced upon them and gave them a shot from their rifles; one of the Indians was killed, and the other escaped severely wounded. Boyd and his party, hearing the shots were fired apparently by the Enemy, soon after recommenced their march back to the army but very imprudently on his outward route. Having advanced a short distance, an Indian was seen to start up on rising ground and run into the woods whom the guide informed Boyd, was a runner, sent to draw him into an ambuscade. Boyd immediately put his men to a position for defence, each taking a tree. The Indians under Butler and Brant in great numbers, soon appeared and surrounded the party, and a warm conflict ensued, in which nearly the whole of Boyd's men were killed; one of the Indian Guide and M. Parker he and one man made prisoners, and carried off; three men who broke through the enemy reached the army which had then approached within one and a half mile of the scene of slaughter.

The fate of Boyd was horrible: after the most excruciating torture, he was put to death, with his fellow prisoner, and their heads severed from their bodies; the Indian Guide was also exposed to a

On the arrival of the army at the flats ~~on [the] Genesee River~~ ~~on~~ the following day, the mangled bodies, [of [illegible]] were found at Beg-tine, or Beardstown (~~on the west side~~. Boyd's head [was] off and totally skinned; his right eye and tongue taken out; his right foot, from the ball to the ~~heel~~ of the toes, laid open as with a knife; the bottom of the abdomen cut open and the bowels taken out, and a long knife, was [supposed] thrust between the shoulders, descending to the vitals. From the embowelled state of the body, it was supposed that after opening the abdomen, one end of the intestines was drawn out and made fast to a stake, and the prisoner compelled, by fire and blows, to run till the conglomerated mass was unwinded. This torture the Indians have been known to inflict.

Lieut Boyd was from Pennsylvania and had seen much military service. In the year 1775 he was a non commissioned officer in Morgans corps of Riflemen, and was in the expedition up the Kennebec under Genl Arnold, and in the attack on Quebec under Genl. Montgomery, where he was made prisoner with others of Morgans corps. After his return

home, he raised a Company in Morgans Corps and served in the continental Army until his death ~~at Genesee~~ ~~~~. He was noted for his bravery and enterprise, and much lamented by his brother officers, and the manner of his death is a striking ~~instance~~ illustration of the ferocity of savages, whom so much applauded by some of our ~~modern~~ utopian ~~philanthropists~~ philanthropists.

The bodies of Lieut Boyd and ~~that of~~ his fellow sufferer Michael Parker were decently buried near the bank of Beards creek at Big tree, under a clump of wild plum trees.

Sullivan's army made no further progress into the indian country; but before it commenced its return, ~~all~~ the ~~huts~~ lodges and villages of the indians together with their crops, orchards and possessions of every kind, were totally destroyed. Few of the enemy were captured; for all the indian families were sent into the woods towards Buffalo on the approach of the army.

About the middle of September ~~Sullivan~~ Sullivan commenced his march for Pennsylvania, and on his return reached Easton about the middle of October, having been absent from the main army 3 Months

Of the 1400 horses employed in the expedition, only 300 were brought back by the army. Whether they died with diseases or from starvation does not appear ~~from the printed account~~; but probably from both. To this day their bones are seen scattering over the fields where every the army encamped.

This expedition was a severe chastisement to the Indians, ~~from which they did not soon recover~~; but ~~and though~~ it did not wholly prevent further incursions on our frontiers, ~~the next season~~ [illegible] To the surprise of the commanders they found the lands about the Indian villages well cultivated, & in many instances, their houses commodious. Immense quantities of indian corn was destroyed — one hundred of fruit trees were cut down; and their gardens enriched with useful vegetables of various kinds, laid waste.

The culinary vegetables found in the country were of great service to the troops, and lessened the inconvenience of short rations. In the green corn a substitute was found for bread. Ears are said to have been seen of 20 inches in length. Collected

while green, means were contrived to
to convert the kernels into powder-
form by perforating a camp kettle
with a bayonet, the protrusions form-
a sort of grater; and by rubbing the
ears thereon, a coarse milky sub-
stance was, obtained ~~procured~~, which, when
seasoned & cooked, was very palatable and
nourishing.

The winter following the expedi-
tion, was uncommonly severe, & the snows of
~~[illegible]~~ great depth; and ~~being~~ de-
prived of their usual winter
stock of provisions the Indians
suffered severely, and many would
have perished had not they ~~they~~ been
relieved by the arrival of a British
supply at the mouth of Genesee river with
a load of provisions ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ In this expedition much im-
portant information was obtained
in relation to geography of the country & fertility
of the soil; and soon after the close, when the lands
were offered for sale by Phelps and
Gorham, many officers and soldiers
who have served under Sullivan
readily emigrated to the country.

The cutting down of the frontiers
it was supposed at the time, would
destroy them; and some of Sulli-
van's men, remonstrated against

A

Note. The winter of 1779 and 1780 was remarkable for the severity and depth of snow throughout the northern States. Mrs Jameson the White woman who resided on Genesee River, at Beards town when Sullivan invaded the Country, says: "The snow the following winter fell about 5 feet, and remained so for a long time; and the weather was extremely cold; so much so indeed, that almost all the game upon which the Indians depended for subsistence perished, and reduced them almost to a state of starvation through that and three or four succeeding years. When the snow melted in the spring, deer were found dead upon the ground in vast numbers; and other animals of every description perished from the cold also and were found dead in multitudes. Many of our people barely escaped with their lives, and some actually died of hunger and freezing". Seavers Narrative of the Life of Mrs Mary Jemison, page 95.

The winter is remembered by those then living in New England and it was said that ~~for six weeks~~ no dropping of water from the eaves of the houses was seen for six weeks in succession.

as an injury which might be felt by settlers ~~emigrants~~ of the country in future times. But it is ~~now~~ found that the apple trees which have sprung from the stumps, are now more valuable than the old trees that escaped the axe of the invaders.

Almost 21 years have elapsed since this expedition, and what a contrast is exhibited! We now see roads, bridges, ~~within~~ farm houses, and elegant villages, adjoining ~~the roads~~; settlers from all parts of the old States & from Europe all enjoying peace, happiness and the necessaries, and, in many instances, the elegancies of life. The Indians generally have retired back to regions west, and the few remaining, are an abject race, whose unhappiness seems to be increased, by beholding the ease and comforts of civilized life. They are now and then seen some in small wandering parties, or hunting excursions, ~~and~~ offering their venison & fish for sale; and when they have obtained a few shillings they lay ~~[illegible]~~ them out for whiskey, and for a short time endeavour to forget their degraded condition. In a few instances I have known them to ~~they~~ avoid this destructive liquor, and use the money ~~they other~~

with economy. While I resided in Phelps I visited the ~~bark~~ cabin of an old Indian and his ~~wife~~ squaw, in an adjacent wood. They were well known to the people, and ~~were~~ deemed honest and industrious. The ~~hut~~ cabin was constructed with stakes driven into the ground joined by poles at top, covered with bark; in front of it was a fire before which a deer skin was stretched vertically by stakes with the flesh side towards the fire, for the purpose of drying. A small brass kettle was suspended on a pole over the fire, and a deer's head with the skin on it, with a little green corn which had been dried, was boiling. I noticed several skeins of their manufacture from bark, on which they seemed to set much value, as they refused to sell it at any price. When they remove to another station, this simple furniture is packed on some of the backs, and thus loaded they pass to some station where they construct a new hut. I was informed that there are two Indians other encamped in the neighboring woods, and that they ~~often~~ purchase of the inhabitants, whatever their [illegible]

Where the enlightened agriculturalist feeds bountifully, they often find nothing but poverty - pinch ing, repining, poverty.

they consider a great delicacy.
They appeared to {be} of advanced age; & had
could I have conversed with them in
their own language, probably they ~~could~~ {would}
have given me details relating to
Sullivans invasion of their country.
Notwithstanding all that has been
said in favor of this simple mode of
life, I think these wild people are
unhappy race. In the winter season
they ~~must~~ suffer from the want of
comfortable dwelling houses, as well
as scanty supplies of provisions.
Few as are their wants, they can-
not always be supplied; their meals
are uncertain and sometimes none
~~[illegible]~~ to be had. When they become old
and rheumatic, and unable to
hunt, poverty accumulating ~~[illegible]~~ {assail}
~~[illegible]~~ them; and without children
to support them they must fam-
ish; for ~~suppose~~ they have no
eleemosynary establishments.
Our Poets {and writers} may divert themselves
in {glowing} descriptions of the silvan life
of the Indian; but give me
civilization with its arts, ~~and~~
sciences, and their ameliorating
influences. without ~~these~~ {which} man
is little superior to the ~~other ani-~~ {beasts}
~~mals~~ of the ~~woods~~ forest (Note A)

## Biographical notice of an Old Friend,
## Col. William Stevens —

On my journey to this country I called at the house of my old friend Col. Stevens, in Camillus, and was informed that he had, that morning, ~~he~~ set out on a journey for Albany.

This day March 12th I received intelligence of his death. Rumours had previously reached this place of the event, but they were considered as doubtful. It appears he proceeded to the Salt works, of which he was superintendent, where he was subsequently taken sick, and after a few days died, about the 8th of March.

He had not long since emigrated from Colrain in the County of Hampshire in Massachusetts, and besides superintendent of the saltworks had been appointed a judge of the Court in Onondaga County. With Col Stevens I had been intimately acquainted, during his residence in Colrain, and had formed a good opinion of his ~~ingenuity~~ intelligence and integrity.

During most of the war of our revolution he was an officer of artillery, and noted for his assiduous attention to the duties of his profession. In the battles of Trenton, Brandywine

and Germantown, and (if I mistake
not) Monmouth, he discharged his
duty, with courage and bravery, and
evinced much skill in artillery
service. At the seige of Yorktown
he was intrusted with some of
the critical points of the operations,
which I have heard him relate,
but without assuming any merit
to himself. At the close of the seige
he was sent into the town to
take an inventory of the British
ordnance and military Stores.
Soon after the peace of 1783 he
came to Colrain where he pur-
chased a small farm, and remained
sometime rather retired, and
unknown, excepting a few friends
who were acquainted with his
services, until the Insurrection
in Massachusetts in 1787, when
he again entered the military
field.
Though at that time he held
no commission in the militia
~~artillery~~, his well known skill
in ~~that branch of duty~~ artillery service, procured
him an appointment, or Station
in the artillery, ~~which he then~~
~~stationed~~ Justice at Springfield under
Major Genl Shepard, and his

services proved of the highest
importance, in the instruction of
the unexperienced officers of the mili-
tia artillery; and his firm and
determined conduct, in Shays's attempt
to seize the arsenal ~~in the Insurrectionary~~ at Springfield
~~of the [illegible]~~, tended greatly to
[illegible] with the new troops.
After the suppression of the insur-
rection, he was elected to the com-
mand of a company of artillery in
the 2d Brigade of the 5th Division
of Militia in Massachusetts. Other
companies being soon after formed
in that Division, he was elected
to the command of the whole
with the rank of Colonel.
At same time previous to his remov-
al from Boston he was engaged
in writing a system of discipline
for the artillery, and at length
issued proposals for printing
the work, which was to be
sort of three pocket vols. with the
elementary plates. But from the
delays, attending the removal
of his family, and forming a settle-
ment in a new country, he did
not publish the first vol. until
about 4 years after the proposals
this was issued. The vol. was

practice in New York and came
out with the recommendations of Colo-
nels Lamb and Stevens both experienced
officers of Artillery.
The two remaining vols. were to follow
as soon as circumstances would permit,
in which it was proposed to treat
of the theory and practice of heavy
artillery in garrison and on board
the navy; the principles of Gunnery
practical, laboratory duty, and direct-
ions for compositions, and artificial
fire works, with the formation of
ammunition for the different kinds
of ordnance. The vol. published, con-
tained the formation of a Corps of
Artillery, and the practice of light
field artillery, with a number
of plates.
How far he was ~~[illegible]~~ qualified for
so extensive a work, may be seen
by a perusal of his printed vol.
Part of his manuscripts he had
permitted me to peruse, and they
appeared to evince much useful-
ness for artillery officers, and
he was intimately acquainted with the
branches of mathematics necessary
for such a work.
His education was obtained
principally by his own exertion

but I believe he had no knowledge of the classical languages. He had procured a considerable library a part of which consisted of the Encyclopedia Brittanica, and he spent much time in reading; ~~and~~ had acquired considerable skill in perspective drawing, ~~and~~ the principles of land surveying & military engineering. His manners were of a military cast some thought they were too much of the former kind, but I always found him social and agreeable, and highly interesting whenever I met him.

At the time of his death his salary as superintendent of the salt works, I am informed was 900 dollars, besides his pay as a judge of Court. He left a wife and family, to mourn the loss of one on whom they depended; and to me his death was an ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] ~~feet~~ of deep regret, and ~~[illegible]~~ to the the public ~~loss~~ a loss ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~the same~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~the loss~~ — Oaks, Tavern

During my leisure hours I often visited the Oaks, tavern the general resort of the people of Phelps, and here I generally met many of the ~~[illegible]~~ business travellers to or from the [illegible]


aside from his irregular habit
I was pleased with his company
and found him intelligent and skilled ~~wonderfully conversant~~
with ~~in~~ many subjects of science. He in-
formed me that he was in the battle
of Bennington and momentarily came to a charge
with the bayonet. He once bore
a justices commission and sat some time
in Greene, ~~[illegible]~~

The trials at the Justices Courts
are not always conducted with the
greatest decorum, though I have seldom
witnessed much disorder. The follow-
ing however is an instance of this
~~[illegible]~~ kind.

Mr. Green had purchased of one
Fife an unsound horse, and
he sued Fife for damages. A jury
was summoned to attend the court
(a legal practice in New-York)
Gibson managed the case for
Green. A witness was called on
the stand, who testified to facts
that militated against ~~[illegible]~~ the
defendant; this roused his ire.
and he instantly exclaimed, By
G—d you forswear that if you
can! Something being observed
respecting the manner in which
Green had kept the horse, Fife
interposed. By G—d a man that

not ~~keep~~ keep a horse better, ought
not to keep a musquito.
Differences in Maryland are of Dutch
extract, one spoke broken English.
A ~~[illegible]~~ Sprightly Lady, a witness for Tyson,
in the true Dutch style, made a spirited
attack on Tyson. She thought a
man of honor would never favor
one side more than another. She
made an ~~unsparing~~ use of numerous
language and profane & with
~~one or two~~ beauty oaths. The justice bore
this with more patience than I
should in his situation. This Lady
was a fine looking person, quite
charming to the spectators. After a
~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] place by Tyson; the
jury decided in favor of Green, and
gave eleven shillings damages.
The practice of summoning Jurors at
Justice Courts is unknown in Massa
chusetts. ~~Here~~ There 12 men are summoned,
out of whom 6 are taken by lot.
A Lawyer of some eminence in the
State of New York, once told me he
did not see how we reconciled our
practice, in Justice Courts, with
the 15th article of our Bill of Rights. And
he gave it as his opinion, that
~~[illegible]~~ practice was unconstitutional.

a

A Whisky Bluster.

While I was in Phelps the following bluster took place at Oaks tavern which is fairly chargeable to the stimulus of whisky.

Three young men accompany Rufus arrived at ~~the~~ Oaks tavern in the forenoon. Their intentions doubtless were harmless. For a few hours they diverted themselves in shooting at a mark and drinking whisky. In the afternoon they became boisterous, and Mr Oaks attempted to still them; but this served to increase the flame. They attacked Oaks and swore they would conduct as they pleased, for the barroom belonged to them, and they would keep it at their pleasure. About this time the rioters were joined by a drunken father who haunted the tavern, and the disorder continued.

Samuel Oaks, a son of the landlord, was ordered to bar for their support and declined the liberty to quit the house. On this a general scuffle ensued, and with the assistance of the [illegible] and others who had repaired to the house, the room was cleared of the ~~[illegible]~~

wresting a loaded rifle from Cook
one of the party; but they soon
quitted the room and took away
his rifle. By another effort they
were again forced out. Cook then
cocked his rifle and purposely
fired it at Sisson, then about two yards
distant, ~~and~~ swore by G—d he
would fire. Fire and be damned
replied Sisson; but be sure you
take good aim. The fellow then
back
came lowered his rifle.

The battle then ceased for a few
minutes; but the rifle boys soon
returned into the room. Young Oaks
then came to my store where
~~He~~ happened to be a Justice of the
Peace, to whom he applied for a
warrant; and we all proceeded
to the tavern, where we found the
rifle boys still boisterous,
threatening all ~~around~~ about them; but
they soon ~~made~~ set off for home; on
which, at the advice of the justice
young Oaks and a party
pursued ~~them~~ to seize and de-
tain them until a warrant
could be made out for their arrest.
~~them~~ On coming up with the fu-
gitives, Cook was seen to prime
his rifle, and he cautioned Oaks

to keep off; Ochs became absolutely advanced, struck up the rifle and seized him; the other submitted and the whole were ~~two~~ brought back to the tavern, where they were washed and put under keepers.—

The next morning, the fumes of the whiskey having evaporated, they were submissive and offering to settle the affair with the Sheriff; but it was deemed best to bring them to court. Cook and Ditler were arraigned and taken to Carlisle jail: the other two were discharged.

Thus ended the bustle, in which the crime of murder was barely avoided, and all this through the stimulus of whiskey.

Excepting one of the party, the drunkards mentioned, these young men were [illegible], laborers on a farm in a neighboring town.— The scene was disgusting and would not have been thus detailed, were it not a striking instance of the disorder which are produced in new settlements, by an excessive use of whiskey.

## Habitual Drunkards

by large collections of the people. 49
boxing matches sometimes occur
and these are most frequent at
the elections, which heated by ar-
dent spirits, and party warm.
While I resided in the Town, the
election of governor took place; ~~the~~
~~election~~ it ~~was~~ continued three days,
and was held in different places
in the town. Several days after
its termination, ~~numerous~~ frequent applic-
ations were made to the Magistrates
for warrants to arrest offenders
who had ~~made~~ committed assaults. One was
appeared with his nose partly
bitten off; another with a ~~torn~~ scratched
ear, and another with a black
eye, as the effects of a squabble
at the election while under the stimulus of whis-
ky.

These disorders however are
principally confined to the ~~lower~~
class ~~[illegible]~~ whose minds have
not been smoothed and polished
by a proper education; and ma-
ny such are always found in new
settlements. In a short time these
disorders abate, and ~~the~~
a higher degree of civilization
is sure to cure the evil. But in
the new settlements, men of active
mind and steady habits, are found

who are attached to the uncouth
habits of the uninformed hunt;
many of ~~whom~~ the latter emigrate, to avoid
punishment for crimes committed
in the place of their birth, endeav-
ence a renown in any society.
Let it not be supposed from
the ~~description that have been~~ cases of this nature have giv-
en, that the people ~~have~~ are more
~~disorderly~~ barbarous than ~~those~~ in other
new settlements. This is far
from the case: most of the land
holders are discreet men, and
industrious farmers, though
nearly all are in the pernicious
use of whisky, from the causes
which I have already assigned.
Notwithstanding the ~~disorders~~ irregularities in-
cident to new settlements, composed
of people of different manners, customs
and habits, before they become polish-
ed by the softening influences of
~~amount~~ education & residence. There
~~there~~ ~~is~~ are ~~completely~~ many attracting to one
whose
taste for rural scenes. The opening
of the farm at the new fields, covered
with heavy crops, ~~rising~~ thriving from the
rich soil — the abundance of game
in the woods and fish in the waters
the interior of ~~mansion~~ houses,
even the humble log huts the cap-

of roads, bridges, and mills - all in-
vites his attention, and he sees
the country, at first a wild for-
est, becoming a garden [and] affording
all the necessaries of life. As respects
myself I must say that in the short
time I resided in the country, I
found much to please my taste, and
that I left it with a strong intenta-
tion to return and make it my
future residence —

~~When~~ [At the time] the lands in Genesee were
first offered for sale by Phelps and
Gorham, many people in New England
were of opinion that they would
by no means become valuable, as the
distance from the markets on the
sea coast was so great; ~~...~~ In some
[tracts were] time, bo[ugh]t at low price, ~~and~~ the town-
ship of Phelps, I am informed, was
purchased for 25 cents the acre. But
perhaps few tracts in the ~~United~~ [country]
~~States~~ are more ~~eligible~~ [valuable] for farm-
ers. The lands often produce from
30 to 40 bushels of the finest wheat,
by the acre, and other crops
afford a great yield. To clear
and fit an acre for wheat
costs about 12 dollars, and fen-
cing and dragging in the seed 5
dollars; the returns of farming is

to be added. It is asked ~~inquired~~, what is to be done with the surplus produce: at present it bears a good price, and by improving the water communications, with Baltimore Philadelphia and Albany, it may be transported to those places by boats. Utica on the mohawk is fast rising, and must become a place of considerable trade; and the western turnpike when completed, will furnish a good avenue for waggons; many of ~~which~~ the Pennsylvania construction, now pass between Geneva and Albany. But the heavy articles such as pot and pearl ashes, are sent by water, as much of the flour as manufactured at these excellent mills ~~which have been~~ built in various parts of the country ~~city~~ ~~counts~~, on an improved construction. The article salt, which must necessarily have been expensive when transported from the sea port, is now sold for about 60 cents by Bush., at the Onondago works and the quantity manufactured at that place is immense; and in great quantities is carried up the lakes far to the west. Cattle and horses can ~~also~~ be driven to

the cities on the sea-board, without
~~without~~ giving great expense. Such are some
of the advantages which the farmer
and trader will find in the Genesee
country. The article sugar may
also be added. This, though it will
not become an article of transportation, will for some time be made
sufficient for home consumption.
At the season for manufacturing this
article, the farmers are busily employed
and nothing is more pleasant than
a visit to their ~~[illegible]~~ sugar camps in the woods.
The rise of Sap in trees, is a curious
operation, relative and notwithstanding
writers on vegetable physiology have
attempted to explain it, I must confess
I do not fully understand it.
To produce a good flow, frosty nights
seem to be necessary, followed by
warm days; and when the buds
begin to expand the flow ceases.
Is the sap then given off to the
atmosphere, or taken up by the
buds and leaves? Is not the process, whatever it may be, somewhat

+ By the opening of the great western canal and other improvements in the country, all the difficulties of transportation then will be entirely removed; and the country is no longer considered distant.

similar to the circulation of the
blood in animals. 3// Rifle Shooting
one of the diversions of the people
here is shooting at a mark with the
rifle. Some of their best ~~[illegible]~~ gunners, will
cut the size of a silver dollar at the dis-
tance of 100 yards, almost at every
shot. This Species of arm was first brought
into the Genesee country from Pennsylvania
but they are now manufactured here
~~in the country~~. many have been made
at Canadaigua by a Mr Curtis who,
I understand is from that state.
They are now used by many of the
Indian hunters, and woe to the
deer that comes within their range.
A party of these hunters on their
return from the woods about Sodus
where they had been employed in the winter, called
at Oaks. They had with them ~~their~~ their
squaws, children and baggage, their
venison &c. One of the females carried
a large pack upon her back sup-
ported by a strap ~~around~~ her fore-
head; and a lad carried an infant
upon his back, strapped to a
board, with a projection at
top to keep off the rain. I saw
a handsome rifle manufactured by Curtis
was offered to purchase it for
goods; The man at first refused

to part with it; but at length consented to exchange it for a quantity of blue cloth. I made the exchange and he appeared to be satisfied. Previous to the bargain I tried ~~it~~ the rifle at a mark, and I beat the Indian in the shot. . . . They also parted with some of their dryed venison, which when warmed or broiled, ~~are~~ is very palatable. They were all fond of whiskey.——

~~A Sulphur Spring~~ curiosity … found in this country is a sulphur spring; I visited it situated near the road from the northerly part of Phillips to Canandique, about 8 miles from ~~my~~ Ochs Tavern, ~~which I visited~~.

The water rises from a flat one place at two places; one from a marshy cavity, in a considerable ~~quantity~~ steadily, very clear and some observes into low ground. Wood, stones and other substances at the bottom are covered with sulphur; the other spring about 20 rods south, is in a morass two rods in width; the water oozes from the morass covered with a sort of moss, on which the sulphur is found in such quantity that it may be gathered by hand.

~~south~~. The air for a considerable distance around, is impregnated with a sulphureous odor somewhat similar to that from the flash of gun powder. Probably these springs would become places of resort, for old rheumatics —

Sulphur is said to be a simple substance, and mines of it ~~found~~ exist in some parts of the world. Is this the case here, and does the water, by its hydraulic power, bring it from the mine to the surface without combination with the water?

Excursion to Hopetown.

Having much said of this place as a favorable one for business, I resolved to visit it; and accompanied by a gentleman, we rode from Geneva [?] up the west bank of Seneca lake to the place. It is not remarkable for its number of inhabitants, but its situation on the outlet of Crooked lake renders it a fine place for mills, and an excellent [?] one is there erected; the waters of the lake ~~the~~ furnishing a never failing ~~reservoir~~ supply [?]. The soil did not appear so rich as in many other places; but from its loamy [?] aspect and abounding with oaks, I judged it

and maple, I judged it would be ~~fine~~ good for wheat. The lake lies some distance west from the Seneca, and is about 18 miles in length. Between the two lakes an English gentleman has recently commenced the clearing of a tract of 640 acres; and the first season, put into the ground forty acres of wheat. The place is about 16 miles south of Geneva, and as the road from that place runs along the west bank of ~~the~~ Seneca lake, open at all seasons, it will ~~be~~ afford a very pleasant route for a ride; and I think Hope town, or some place in the vicinity, will become noted for its pleasant situation and perhaps for business. Near Hopetown is the friends settlement, under the spiritual management of the enthusiastic Jemima Wilkinson. || Extent of the Settlements.

At the time I resided in the Genesee Country it ~~was~~ consisted of ~~elevated~~ ~~composed of~~ two Counties Ontario and Steuben, in both of which a considerable number of settlements had been made, ~~of which~~ Geneva and Canandaigua in the former, and Bath in the latter, were the most noted. ~~many~~ Some other places began to be known, and ~~settlers~~

settlements were seen in many of the townships. On the great western road from Canandaigua, were a few villages and farms. At Bigtree or Wadsworths flats, on the Genesee River settlement had commenced, and mills were erected at the great falls of that River. Sodus Bay, on Lake Ontario was often mentioned as a place which would soon become an important port; for fishing, fowling, hunting and sporting, the place was considered as unrivaled. A Country so inviting cannot fail of rapid improvements and a great population; and within a few years there will be handsome towns and villages spread over every part, the abode of an industrious and independent people.

Preparations for a journey home

Having resided in Phelps about two months, and disposed of the greatest part of my goods, some for Pot ashes to be forwarded to Schenectady by water; I made preparations to return home, with the view of removing my family to the place, and procuring a supply of goods; or of abandoning the object, and settling down in my native place.

By letters from my friends I
was informed that I was held
up in the papers as a candidate
for the Register's office in the
northern District of the County
of Hampshire. I had little expect-
ation of being elected and ~~[illegible]~~
less chance for the office. My
mind was prepared for more
active employment, and the
western country, presented many
objects suited to my taste.

With a view of examining the
water communication between
Geneva and Schenectady, I sought
an opportunity for a boat pas-
sage. At this time two large
boats, called Durhams, were
building at Phelps, and were
as soon as launched in Canan-
daigua outlet, to take loads of
flour at Lyons mills for ~~[illegible]~~ Mr Coll a
merchant of Geneva, ~~at Lyons mills~~, and transport them to
Schenectady. Being acquainted
with the masters of the boats
(Erastus Stebbins and Josiah
Beals) I soon engaged a passage.
On the 28th of April the boats
were launched and named
the President & the Ottawa.

They were constructed with circular
tapered
bottoms like a sea vessel, with sharp
stem fore and aft, and [tolu] worked
with oars and poles: and were
calculated for Lake and River
Navigation; ~~more~~ five [or six] hands
~~are~~ [are] necessary in working them
against a stream.

Packing my goods, and adjusting
affairs, occupied the next day.
On the 30th of the following my goods
in the hands of Samuel Oaks,
and taking leave of my friends,
I went on board, and the boats
sailed down to Lyons mills where
they were to take in their loading.
The dam across the River was
to be part on an inclined plane,
~~which~~ and was effective without
accident, and the boats brought
up to the mill to receive the loads.
The mill is a curious piece of
machinery and evinces great
mechanical ingenuity. The meal
after leaving the stones, is carried up
about 30 or 40 feet, and then carried
and then descends to the bolt.
The machinery is so complex
that it would be difficult to de
scribe it without drawings.
View of the mills I have seen in

New-England evince equal skill, and the principal mills of this County are of a similar construction.
The Lyons mill was built by a Capt Baker an ingenious mechanic much esteemed in this country for the many improvements he has introduced into this kind of machinery.
As the locality of the boats ~~will~~ took up some time towards night, accompanied by Master Beals and ~~the~~ Attorney General Sisson, who have come on to the mill in one of the boats, we proceeded down to the village of Lyons, where we took lodging for the night. This place consisting of a few log houses, is situated on the left bank of the creek a short distance below the mouth of mud creek, coming in from the west. It ~~place~~ is about 14 miles from Sodus bay, and has very fertile bottoms on the creeks, particularly on the south side, which appear like "beautiful gardens of the richest soil, ~~where~~ ~~with~~ ~~[illegible]~~
Situated on good boatable waters [illegible] It is supposed the place will soon rise into notice and become ~~office~~ one.

for mercantile business. Boats now
ascend much creek to Palmyra.
Lyons is 16 miles north of Geneva,
10 from Oaks in Phelps, & 14 from Pal-
myra; the adjacent country is a for-
-est. ~~Journal of my Tour Home.~~
May 1st. Returned to the mill, and
the day was spent in loading the
boats and preparing for the voyage
In the vicinity of the mill are
a few houses. Journal of my Tour Home.
May 2. a fair and pleasant morn-
ing. The boats having taken in their
loading (100 barrels of flour each)
at 2 o'clock we sailed down the
creek to Lyons, accompanied by a
number of Gentlemen residing about
the mill; part of the way the wa-
ter was rapid. After a short stay
we proceeded down the ~~[illegible]~~
River ~~creek~~, landed at a curiously con-
structed Indian bark cabin on the
right bank, and encamped
for the night. This had been an
Indians hunting station during the winter
but was now abandoned, ~~by the Indians~~
Here we found a number of buck
horns, and a few rude cooking utensils,
and a place where they had
tried their rifles at marks on
the trees. The cabin is in a rich

bottom covered with thick woods.
May 3. Rainy morning. Embarked and proceeded down the ~~creek~~ river, which continues deep and sluggish, to a natural wood raft, extending across from bank to bank, ~~and [illegible]~~ shut up the passage. The logs, bush &c are closely matted and afford a complete bridge, on which trees and bushes were seen growing. A passage has been cut through it at the right shore by saws and axes; but when the waters are low it is difficult to pass it ~~to pass through it~~, and we spent some time in forcing our boats through the narrow pass ~~passage~~ ~~[illegible]~~. Just at sun set we arrived at another raft, which we found more difficult than the ~~other~~ first, and were compelled to cut and saw several ~~many~~ logs, before we could pass the boats. The night overtook us, and we were compelled to encamp. The day had been rainy and the ground was wet. We built a fire, and collecting the bark of trees to spread upon the ground, the men lay down in their blankets and thus spent the night. Fortunately I had a ~~good~~ deer skin among my baggage

which afforded me a good bed.
when spread upon the wet ground
[illegible]. After considerable labour
we effected a passage through the
raft, close upon the right shore,
and found a deep and sluggish
river winding through a broad
channel free from obstruction.
The land on ~~the~~ both margins of the
creek, appears to be rich alluvion
generally covered with woods.
Here and there we see clumps or
places where the timber and thinning ~~[illegible]~~, ~~[illegible]~~ the land
is set over with vegetation, such as
we find where it is occasionally
flowed. In general the ~~creek~~ stream is
narrow and deep, ~~and~~ In turning
a sharp angle with too much rapid-
ity, our boats, for want of a helm or
tie board ~~[illegible]~~, would run ~~[illegible]~~
entirely ~~[illegible]~~ upon the opposite shore
often among the brush overhanging the
water. To avoid this it was found necessa-
ry to slacken the speed ~~of the boats~~ boats.
before coming to a turn, and ~~[illegible]~~
shifting them into the proper direction,
to play the poles or oars.
The weather being fine, the passage
through the wild forest was
exceedingly pleasing. ~~inf~~ Vegetation
was putting out, in all ~~[illegible]~~ its,

beauty; the limbs of the overhang-
ing trees dipping their [illegible] foliage to the water;
the glittering surface of the ~~creeks~~ stream wind-
ing through the dark ~~forest~~ woods, far ahead,
the song of the birds from the ~~trees~~ boughs,
all conspired to cheer and soothe;
and at no time have I felt a higher
relish for the wild scenes of nature.
At ~~one~~ a place on the left, we saw
an opening in the woods, which the
boatmen called thus[?] Mr Kinstin's block
house, where, they stated, was a
work of this kind, built by an offi-
cer of that name: at what period
I did not learn. ([illegible])
Late in the afternoon we entered
Seneca River in the Cayuga marshes,
an extensive tract of sunken land,
covered with flags and other aquat-
ic plants. The Seneca river is formed
by the junction of the outlets of Sene-
ca and Cayuga Lakes; and with
the aid of a short canal and locks,
boats ascend and descend, the ~~same~~
outlet to and from ~~the~~ Seneca Lake.
At the upper end of the marshes, we found two
loaded batteaux from Geneva,
under the charge of Jenks Pullen of
Phelps, who was to join ~~us~~ and
proceed with us to Schenectady.
Pullen being in want of a steers-

-men for one of his batteaux. I offered my services, which he readily accepted. In the management of one of these ~~boats~~, called Schenectady batteaux three men are necessary, one to steer and two to work the poles and oars. The steersman sits at the stern and directs the boat with a common paddle, which is passed through a loop. As I had been used to ~~the~~ a canoe I found no difficulty in the business.

At ten of the clock in the evening, having passed the meadows, we landed at a log cabin, on Musquito point, and took quarters for the night.

These marshes showed some ~~en[illegible]~~ extent of ~~many~~ several thousand acres, covered either with water or flaggs, ~~and~~ high grass, and a few trees on the highest points ~~or other~~ of islands, and are the resort of numerous aquatic fowl. Long lines of ducks were often ~~[illegible]~~ passing over us as we sailed down the stream; which in many places expands into little lakes, stretching out in elbows branches among the grass and flaggs.

The mush~~[illegible]~~rat are found

here in abundance and a variety
of fish, ~~some of a large size~~, such as
the catfish and the masquelonge.
Both are taken of great size, say
from 10 to 20 and even thirty pounds.
The sportsman ~~[illegible]~~ may ~~have~~ find
employment here at the proper season
suited to his taste. Could these marshes
be drained, as it is supposed they
may be, by lowering the bed of the
river at ~~Stand~~ the point rapids below, a
vast tract of valuable meadow might be
millgrounds & put under cultivation.
From the name of this point
we had supposed the inhabitants
would put in strong claims for
this ~~make~~ rights; but we found them
modest in their ~~charges~~ [illegible], and ~~we~~
had a comfortable rest on our
blankets and skins, spread out
on the floor. Our host seems to
have availed himself of the game
~~[illegible]~~ found in the marshes, to ~~and~~
ornament his room; the walls ~~of his room~~ were hung
round with furs & ~~other~~ peltry,
the fruits of his traps and rifle.
* May 5th. We embarked early in
the morning, ~~and~~ sailed down the
creek and at 10 o'clock entered
~~the~~ Loup-lake, about 4 miles
long and one in width. The river

enters at the S.W. angle and dis-
charges at the S.E. Passing the lake
about 14 miles, eleven the river, we reached
Jacks Reef. To this place we had
found good depth of water, but
here a rocky bar extends across the river
and renders the passage over ~~them~~ it
a little dangerous, with loaded
boats. Several other ~~rifts~~ reefs of a simi-
lar nature occur in this part of the
river. In passing one of these the
Ottawa struck a rock and so in-
jured her bottom that she was brought
to the shore [illegible] and put un-
der repair. This detained us some
time, and we put, for the night, we
at the house of Harris' ~~rift~~. The coun-
try is somewhat broken into hills
and white pine timber is seen.

May 6. Repairing the boat occupied
us the whole of the forenoon: at 12
o'clock P.M. we ~~[illegible]~~ set ~~[illegible]~~ sail
and soon past Harris' ~~rift~~ reef with-
out accident, and landed at Cold
Spring in Lysander, only 6 miles
from our last night's station. Half
a mile before we arrived at this
~~station~~ place, we passed the mouth of
Onondago outlet, up which boats
proceed to the salt works at Onon-
dago lake. Excepting at the rifts

the river on this day's run, is sluggish and deep, and the lands on the margin often marshy.

May 7. We sailed at 4 o'clock in the morning, passed a rig without accident, and reached three river point about 8 o'clock. Here the Seneca ~~[illegible]~~ enters the Oneida river, and passes down to Oswego. At this point we found 4 boats from Schenectady bound to Niagara, with goods for the Northwest Company.

The land at the point is open and cultivated, and appears of an excellent quality. I noticed the remains of some old military works. In the war of 1755 the passage from the mohawk by this point, and down the River to Oswego, was often made by our armies and detachments; and in the war of the revolution it again became a channel of communication. From this point the river to its entrance into Lake Ontario, at Oswego, has been called the Onandago; and the river up to Oneida Lake, ~~has~~ had the same name. More appropriately the name Seneca should be retained to Oswego, and that of the Oneida to the lake of that name.

our voyage was now against the
current and our men were put to
the setting poles. We passed Oak Orch-
ard, rapid and reached the foot
of Cohnawaga, another of considerable
descent, where we found a ~~small~~ rude
hut. at which we took quarters
for the night. But as the day had
had not closed, we manned the Presi-
dent with all the hands, and attempted
to pass the rapid [illegible] in our many
works. about the middle of the rapid,
the boat touched the rocks, and swung
round, and as the current was ~~[illegible]~~
~~to~~ in danger of being ~~[illegible]~~ wrecked,
the men were alarmed, and instead
of forcing her off the rock, exerted them-
selves, with their poles, to prevent
her swinging round; and in this
perilous situation the boat remained
until the men were nearly dis-
couraged, and began to talk of
throwing part of the lading over
board, to lighten her. I reason there
and it appeared to me there was
a want of skill in the manage-
ment. One of the masters at length
came ashore in a skiff, rather
dis~~couraged~~ heartened. I immediately requested
him, to permit me to take the
skiff and reach the boat, to which

with some reluctance consented.
on getting on board, I found that
the water on both sides of the boat
was not so deep as to render it diffi-
cult for the men to wade, ~~and~~ I proposed that
~~each man~~ they should get into the wa-
ter equally lifting, raise and swing
her back into the direction of the current,
and then carry her by a side motion
to the shore. my plan was opposed
as impracticable, but by reiterating
~~my~~ my orders I persuaded the men
to try the experiment. The whole
were at length in the water, and by a lift of
the boat, she was raised from the
rock and within a minute brought
to head the current ~~and~~ when she was
out of danger. we then let her drop
the ~~current~~ stream a small distance, and
by a lateral motion brought her
safely to the shore. The natives ~~of~~
~~the boats~~ of the boat appeared a little morti-
fied at my success, and were very
taciturn; but the men acknow-
ledged that I saved the boat and
cargo –

May 8. In the morning we lightened
the Durhams by taking out
part of their lading, and passed
the rapids, cleared and at 5 o'clock P.M.
arrived ~~St. Johns~~, at Fort Brewerton

at the outlet of Oneida Lake and
took quarters, at Stevens' a commodious
tavern ~~[illegible]~~ house

At night we supped upon a dish
of Catfish which we found without
cept. It proved a good dish and sub-
-[illegible]ly
from 3 Riv. point to Oneida Lake no settlements
were seen excepting one or two cabins. the
Country covered with woods.

May 9. Cloudy morning with rain
throughout of the day, attended
with a strong eastwardly wind,
which tumbled the ~~waters of the~~ lake
into high swells ~~waves~~ and rendered a
passage with open boats impracticable
and confined us to quarters.

This station is very pleasantly
situated on the north side of the outlet. To the
east the lake stretches away beyond
the reach of the eye. A tree lofty to
appearance looms up as if it rose
floating ~~from~~ the water; the island on which
it stands being below the visual
horizon. On all other sides except
ing an opening on the south
where is a small house, nothing
is seen but interminable woods.
Boats are often passing up and
down the lake enlivening the scene
Fishermen caught here of various
kinds and of ~~all~~ sizes. In our
passage up the river to this place
I frequently saw the lake salmon

leaping from the water, and they
are found in many small streams, even ~~[illegible]~~
in the sluices of the mills, at certain
seasons. In most of the rapids, weirs
have been constructed by the inde
for taking fish. They are ~~[illegible]~~ generally built of
stones piled up from each shore,
diagonally down the stream, to form
a narrow gap, at which is placed
a sort of basket, or seine, to take the fish
as they descend.
Another method used by the settlers
is, to stretch a strong ~~[illegible]~~ cord between
stakes driven into the bottom of the
lake, where the water is not deep,
~~[illegible]~~ and they suffered to sink towards
the bottom; Short lines with
baited hooks are attached to the
cord, and left ~~[illegible]~~ through
the night, and in the morning
drawn up with the fish. In
this manner the cat fish are
taken.
At the outlet of Oneida Lake ~~is there~~
is a considerable rapid in [illegible]
ter. An easterly wind raises the
water on the bar; ~~[illegible]~~ a westerly
wind lowers it; the difference in
the height may be 8 or eight inches.
Fort Brewerton built at this
place in the old wars, was [illegible]

of considerable strength, with a detached redoubt; the remains are still to be seen.

May 10 Morning still cloudy but the wind had shifted to the northwest, blowing strong, and the lake continued very rough. About 4 o'clock P.M. the wind eased, and we sailed for Rotterdam on the north shore, about 10 miles from the west end of the lake, ~~[illegible]~~.

The tree we had noticed at Fort Brewerton, apparently rising out of the lake, we found to be on a low sandy island off Rotterdam; and a flock of Gulls being seen hovering over the island, we of the battoes, resolved to land on it, and look for their eggs; which are said to be found at certain seasons, in great abundance. As we approached the island our reputations were raised, for the birds were numerous. But on landing lo! the eggs were not there, and what caused much surprise on my part, was to find the high tree divided to a dwarf sycamore of about 25 feet elevation.

We then rowed for Rotterdam

where our Dearborn had command-
ed the ^[the army] quarters for the night.
The Gulls we had seen at the island
were much smaller than those found
on the sea coast, and whether they mi-
grate from those regions ^[to this lake] I am not
certain. But how shall we explain
the elevated appearance of the
distant ^[fields] of fort Brownstone?
~~This~~ ^[Similar] phenomena are often noticed
by seamen and by them is called loom-
ing. Its effects are to elevate objects
above the horizon, and sometimes
to render ^[them] visible when sunk beneath
the visual ray. // In his notes on Vir-
ginia Mr Jefferson says the effect is
also to enlarge distant objects in
opposition to the general laws of
vision, and he gives us an instance
^[he witnessed] at Yorktown, where the water
prospect is without termination,
wherein a canoe with three men at
a great distance, was taken for a ship
with three masts; and ^[also] notices the ap-
pearance of a mountain about 40
miles ^[from his house] which not only presents
higher and lower elevations at
different times; but various fanta-
stical forms, as ~~o~~ various shapes, cones
perpendicular sides and flat
summits, and within the same

of a few hours. Refraction he thinks cannot account for the phenomena; for by none of its laws, as yet developed, can it make a circle appear a square, or a cone, or a sphere.

Since Mr. Jefferson wrote his notes, the laws of refraction have been more fully developed, and these phenomena ~~may be~~ are now explained by the various kinds of terrestrial refraction ~~found to exist~~ observed in the atmosphere: The extraordinary apparent elevation of the lake seen from fort Brewerton, [illegible], can be explained ~~only~~ by the ~~same~~ laws ~~of refraction~~ +.

Rotterdam was lately built by a Mr. Seriba a Dutchman from Holland and consists of about 20 small framed dwelling houses, and a mill, on a small stream entering the lake. A considerable number of mechanics ~~came~~ came settling in to the place; but it was soon found that mechanique employment in a country surrounded by woods was not to be had, and the place proving unhealthy, was generally abandoned; only ten families are now found residents in the village. In traversing the streets of deserted houses, with grass and weeds growing about them, and a gloomy silence

+ See note B. for further remarks on this subject

reigns throughout. Besides, it is said,
he expended a large sum of money in
his abortive attempt. When the back
country is settled the place may some
what become a healthy residence.
May 11 A heavy easterly wind compel-
led us to remain at Rotterdam till about
4 o'clock P.M., when the wind ceasing
we sailed for the mouth of Wood
creek, about the middle of the east
shore end of the Lake. Our conductors, it
seems were not very well acquainted
with the land marks, for they steered
too much right; and at dusk
we found ourselves in the mouth of
Fish creek, instead of wood creek, envi-
roned by dark swamps and thick woods.
From a map I had examined at
Rotterdam, on which the lake and
creeks were well laid down, I was
aware of the error our con-
ductors were making, some time before
we entered the creek, & suggested it to them; but they were
opinionative and I submitted.
Finding ourselves in a situation
where we must sleep the night in our boats &
perhaps be wind bound the next
morning, with the two batteaux
Miller and I put back into the
lake, and coasting along its east
shore we entered wood creek

at 1/2 o'clock a fair night
and put up at Jackson's tavern.
At this place is the vestige of an
old ~~fort~~ military work, but un-
noticed settlement. Fish creek enters
wood creek ^a sluggish long pipe^ from the north east, a
stream larger than the latter.
The passage through the lake being
the old route from Mohawk river to
Oswego, I ~~expected to see~~ anticipated the numerous settlements
on its shores, but very few were
seen, and generally the woods skirted
the waters. The lands ~~from here~~ are
rather low and wet and may
~~not~~ be unhealthy. Time, however,
~~may~~ will line the lake with farms &
villages, when a passage through
it, in calm weather, will be exceeding-
ly pleasant. From our experience
I should think it subject to fre-
quent winds, which render the pas-
sage a little dangerous for open
boats.

May 12. A strong west wind made
a tumbling lake; rendered it doubt-
ful whether our Durhams would
venture from their last night's
station; but our anxiety was
soon relieved, by seeing them com-
ing into the creek, riding triumph-
antly over the threatening surfs;
but the passage was not made

without apprehensions of being
overwhelmed [surprised] by the ~~high~~ swells.
our voyage on the other rivers, along ~~through~~ [the up]
the sinuous windings, through
a country covered with woods.
The creek was narrow, some
times little wider than the boat,
but generally deep and sluggish
and trees frequently lay across
from bank to bank. The shores
are ~~are~~ pretty uniformly about
five, [ansyt] feet above the water. The
The channel, [in many places] is frequently like an
artificial canal, through an
alluvial soil, entirely free from
stones or reefs. I could hardly persuade my
self that a canal had often navigated this river
straightened encamped on the banks
of the creek. Hemlock boughs furnished
not only comfortable beds, but also a
boiled, a substitute for tea, which
with our ~~cold~~ ~~eats~~ [venison] furnished a
fine supper.

May 13 Commenced early on our
~~way~~ route, tugging up the creek
in a rainy day, the stream
much as yesterday: the land
on the margin covered with the but
timber, maple, bass, walnut, but
ironwood, ~~and~~ elm, and some
beech. Among the shrubs I
noticed currants, cherries and elder,

The canal is often very serpentine
at some points passages have been
cut across necks of peninsulas ~~of~~ a few
yards in length, which have short-
ened the route hundreds of rods
and many more similar improvements
might be made.
About 6 o'clock P.M we arrived
at Gilberts, a tavern house on the N bank
of the canal, within the town of
of Rome; the canal for some
distance below, was a little
rapid and obstructed by ~~some~~
~~so~~ bars, but we passed them
without much difficulty.
Here it was necessary ~~[illegible]~~ to take out
part of the loads ~~from the boats~~
and forward them by wag-
gons, sufficiently kept in readiness.
From this place to Rome the
canal dwindles to a mere brook,
which is occasionally raised
by water from a short canal
across the portage, fed from
the Mohawk; and when the
~~canal~~ filled the boats go on up to
Rome.
May 14. Mr. Gilbert having
a horse which he was de-
sirous to forward to Rome
I agreed to deliver him there

and I soon arrived at that plea-
sant spot up at White's Tavern
On the route I passed the site
of fort Bull, one of the old military
stations in the french wars, ~~and~~
captured by the indians in 1756.
and the garrison principally
murdered.

Rome is a very pleasant village
with some fine buildings; in-
habited by a many polished people,
enjoying not only the necessaries
but superfluities of life. The
place was formerly known by
the name of Oneida carrying
place and a small fort was built
here in early times. Fort Stan-
wix built by the British army
in the year of 1755, is in this
town, near the village; having
been repaired and strengthened
in the revolutionary war, it
still remains. It is a square
work with 4 bastions, with
a good ditch, ramparts and
parapets, with pickets. I
found 2 large cannon in the
bastions, and a block house
in the centre. It stands on
the margin of a fine meadow
~~[illegible]~~ overlooked by the [illegible].

May 15 and 16. Waiting for our boats and cargoes to be brought to Mohawk, I found leisure to [illegible] over the old carrying place & to prepare a ~~so often~~ few Historical recollections ~~[illegible] History.~~

In the early ~~settlement~~ times of the Province ~~[illegible]~~ of New-York this portage was much used by the western fur traders; ~~being~~ the common route to the great western Lakes. The portage when the rivers were high, was about three miles; at low water about five. On reaching Wood creek the boats, which were light and of small burden, descended the creek to Oneida Lake; thence through the lake and down Onondago river to Lake Ontario at Oswego. In the year 1722 the Province of New-York built a fort at that place for the protection of the trade ~~thereunto~~; & from that to the present time, this has been the principal channel of trade for the western Country. Oswego was found to be an important station for the Indian trade and many remote tribes resorted there to exchange their skins for English merchandize. In 1724, fifty seven canoes went from Schenectady to that place, and returned with 738 packs of beaver & deer skins*

* [illegible]

During the French wars of 1744 and
55 this route was frequented by
detachments from the armies on the
Hudson; and in 1760 Genl Amherst
with a strong force passed ~~traversed~~ the
route to Oswego on his invasion of Can
ada. In 1777 a British force of English
and Indians, under Col. St Leger, passed up from Oswe
go to this portage; and invested fort
Stanwix, August 2d then commanded by Col.
Gansevoort. The seige continued several
weeks and St Leger carried his approach
es within 150 yards of the fort; but
an American detachment being sent
up the mohawk for relief of the place,
the Indians were alarmed & he was compelled to raise the seige
and retreat down wood creek,
and thence to Canada. In the
early part of the seige, a severe ac-
tion took place at Oriskany creek,
a few miles down on the mohawk, in
which a body of militia was defeated
under the commander, Genl Herkimer,
who was mortally wounded & many men killed.
The canal at this place ~~which~~ connecting
the waters of the mohawk with the
wood creek, ~~and the first~~ being of
great consequence to the new settlements
in the western part of New-york
it is to be regretted that ~~the canal~~ it is
not carried to Oneida Lake. With

are comparatively small expendi-
tures, which could be converted
into a canal, a few dams & locks only ~~only~~
being necessary; and by clearing passa-
ges in the rapids ~~rift~~ in Oneida ~~and~~ and
Seneca rivers, a good and safe boat
navigation would be obtained
to the Genesee lakes & Oswego.

Rome is situated on a plane somewhat
elevated, equidistant from the rising of the wa[ters] ~~for the waters run~~ in
opposite direction; one in channel to the Sea at
New York City, the other by the St Law-
rence to the Sea of that name. The
country adjacent has long been inhabited
by the Oneida Indians; ~~and~~ and could
we obtain their history, no doubt
many interesting transactions that
occurred at this place, would ap-
pear. But the Indians are fast dwindling
away, ~~and~~ a new race, with
the civilizing arts and sciences
are taking their place, and
within a few years, not only this
but the other tribes of the six na-
tions will be known only in histo-
ry. This place was the residence of a French Jesu-
it for several years.

Slept here [?] this day, our Boats
and baggage having arrived, we
prepared for our voyage down
the Mohawk; but as it being late
in the day we only passed

them through to locks
the ~~them~~ into the Mohawk, nearly
we proceed early in the morning.
The length of time spent in the pas-
sage of the portage was much great-
er than I had supposed it would be,
and must be accounted for from the
imperfection of the canal. And this
were carried down the creek to the
suitable water at Gilberts the
passage might have been effected
without material delay, and it is
to be hoped this defect will soon
be remedied.
Our distance from Schenectady is
now about 100 miles, and with a
good height of water we might
make the passage within a few days,
but as the river is rather low,
and many shoals and ~~rifts~~ rapids are
to be passed, we may be delayed
beyond our expectations.
<u>May 18.</u> Early in the morning
we left Rome, and proceeded down
the river, and passing Whitestown
arrived at Utica. The water
the greatest part of the distance of
a pretty good depth with the

exception of one or two rapids, no-
thing sluggish, ~~but~~ but it ~~is~~ is skirted by
snags or Sycamore trees, on which one of our
boats struck remained aground some
time. Along the banks of the river
we noticed several ~~small tracts~~
acres of cotton ~~meadow~~, of the finest quality, and
passed the fine village of Whitesboro
which is the residence of the Patriarch
Hugh White, who first led the
people of the Connecticut to this land
of promise, in 1784; ~~formerly~~ before which the
German flats was the upper main settle-
ment on the Mohawk; and the coun-
try here was the haunt of Indians
and ~~other~~ wild animals, ~~and~~ little
known except to traders and mili-
tary Officers who had traversed it.

The progress of the settlements, within
what was first called Whitestown, has
~~since~~ no where been more rapid; from
a wild forest it is now converted
into large and elegant villages, whose
"busy trade bespeaks plenty", and "plenty
crowns the plain". At Utica we see
extensive streets of continuous brick
buildings, including many Stone

and public houses, indicating prosperity and wealth. A small distance SW is the handsome village of New Hartford on the great western road. At Utica ~~was~~ stood old fort Schuyler, the name now transferred to fort Stanwix in Rome. In ~~short, on contemplating~~ a word, the progress of the settlements here, and in the adjacent country, surprising ~~the story of their commencement by Duncan and Sage, can no longer be deemed a fable~~ & hardly to be credited.

May 19. Our two Batteaux continued down and arrived at Mr. Hopkins at the German flats, and took night quarters; one Durham boat, having grounded upon a shoal were detained sometime.

The River this days run is less obstructed with snags than yesterday; but the shoals are more frequent and the current quicker. The flats extend on both sides of the river and form the ~~rich~~ cultivated rich meadows. German flats is on the south side of the river a small village, where are seen some old block Houses & other military works. Herkimer a fine village ~~is~~ is on the north

side of ~~[illegible]~~ appear ______ the flats
both are old settlements and were
frontier places in the french war
but settled by principally Germans. mountains
or highlands, begin to appear below on each
side of the River.

At this place the river becomes shallow
and impassable for loaded boats, at
what is called wolf Rift; and a short
canal is ~~built~~ cut through the adjoining
flats ~~by~~ through which loaded boats pass.

May 20 Our Durhams having ad-
vanced we passed the canal, and also
reached the ~~canal at~~ Little falls. At this
place a chain of hills reach the River
~~=~~ forming a narrow pass and a con-
siderable fall, which is overcome
by a canal and locks; and a small
village with a number of stores are
seen. Water worn ~~appearances~~ fissures in
the rocks, high above the river, in-
dicate that the water in former times
was ~~[illegible]~~ above the present beds;
perhaps sufficient to flow the
portage at Rome.

May 21. Proceeded down the
river Durhams to Hudsons mill

there we were compelled to Land
~~—~~ to repair the batteau which had
been injured by striking upon a
rocks. The shoals and rapids ~~—~~
becoming more frequent in the lower
part of the River, our boat masters obtained
to lighten the Burthens by taking
out part of their Loads. On the Shores
the Lands appear to be rich but
farms under cultivation.

May 22 Proceeded to the village
of Canajoharie and put up. The
rapids this day were frequent ~~plenty~~; but having
engaged a pilot for the Day we passed them with-
out accident. The town is an old
settlement on the south side of the riv-
er, about 40 miles from Albany; the
surface somewhat uneven. Creeks
enter the Mohawk from the south
affording good mill seats.

May 23. Continued down the River
to a good Dutch tavern 8 miles from
Schenectady. Rapids this day very
frequent ~~plenty~~, and some rather difficult
Passed the old seat of Sir Wm. John-
son on the North (~~[illegible]~~)
in Johnstown; distant from the River

Caughnawaga, a Seneca village — on the north bank near a bad rapid.

May 24. Arrived at Schenectady about noon; the landing full of boats and merchandise. The river from last station has many shoals and rapids. The increase of the western trade on the Mohawk seems to have given a spring to business at this place, and the loading is taken from the boats and carried by land 15 miles to Albany.

Monday 25. Bid adieu to my inmates and proceeded in a stage to Albany — found the place busy and the blacks holding Pinkster. They collected on the hill west of the city, and exhibited an African dance, accompanied with their rude music, in presence of a large collection of the citizens. They seemed to be very happy.

May 26 Took the stage & travelled over the hills to Pitts-field, and the 27th to ~~Worthington~~

[illegible] when I left the stage & travelled on foot to Cannercy, and the next day May 28 arrived at Deerfield and found family and friends well.

Remarks on the water Route to Schenectady

My principal object in selecting the water passage from Albany to Schenectady, was to examine its feasibility ~~of the route~~, as a channel of trade; and respecting Mohawk River I found it equal to my expectations.

Seneca River may be said to have its source in Seneca Lake, and receives the waters of Cayuga, Otisco, Skaneateles, and Onondaga lakes from the south. Another stream formed by the outlet of Canandaigua lake, Flint and Mud creeks, uniting at Lyons, meets the Seneca at the Cayuga marshes and in a considerable stream, empties into Onondaga at Three River point. Above Lyons the creeks are ~~small~~ shallow & interrupted with bars, which cannot be passed by loaded boats, but they furnish many good mill seats. Seneca

Seneca Lake the river passes ~~[illegible]~~ rapid before it junction with Cayuga outlet but these have been rendered passable by the construction of a Canal & locks. From Lyons, and the southern heads of Seneca and Cayuga lakes, to the head of Jack's Reef below Musquito point is a good depth of water, and boats with heavy loads may pass. By constructing locks and canals at Jack's and other reefs between that and the river point, the navigation would be good. From this point to Oswego the navigation is obstructed by a fall, 12 miles above Oswego where a short canal is necessary; The passage up Oneida Riom is obstructed by Oak orchard and Cohnawago reefs where short canals are also necessary. But the other points of the river furnish good depths of water, excepting a small rapid at the outlet, of Oneida Lake. By cutting passages through the reefs that have been mentioned, and erecting proper machinery at their heads, boats might be drawn up and let down, perhaps at an expense less than canal

These improvements being made
an excellent boat navigation will
be obtained from the heads of Cayu-
ga & Seneca lakes, and also from Ly-
ons to the east end of Oneida Lake.
the whole distance about      miles.
From Oneida to Rome ~~summit is~~
~~united, and~~ by converting wood
creeks into a canal and lengthening
that at Rome, a good passage will
be had to the Mohawk.
From Rome to Schenectady the nav-
igation, owing to ~~from~~ the numerous rapids ~~rifts~~
and shoals, is difficult except
when the waters are swolen, &
even then the ascent is tedious.
By damming the River a slack
water navigation might be ob-
tained; but such is the descent, that
many of these would be necessary,
and always exposed by floods.
The Boats at present used on this
navigation, appear to me to be
very badly ~~ill~~ constructed, especially for
river navigation, both the Durhams
and Batteaus draw too much water;
eight feet boats of the common C
[illegible] construction would be much

better adapted to the navigation excepting on the Lakes where ~~they~~ much. The Batteau has long been used; but, to me it appears, that no worse construction could have been chosen for stemming the current of a rapid river. The men managing the poles, are stationary in the bow, and apply their force in [an] awkward manner. This is avoided in the Durhams, ~~where they run~~ [in which the men] move back on running boards, at the sides of the boat; but when, of the size of ~~these~~ those we had on the voyage (burden about 10 tons) ~~better~~ they are totally unfit for the navigation of the Mohawk, at low water*. ~~again~~

* The above remarks, ~~were~~ [are] the result of my observations made on the tour from Geneva to Schenectady. The ~~construction of the~~ [Grand] canal connecting Lake Erie with the Hudson, has ~~been~~ since [been constructed] ~~completed~~ and all difficulties in the navigation ~~of the waters in~~ [to] the Genesee country, and sections further west, thereby obviated. A most wonderful undertaking!

Soon after my arrival at Deerfield
it was found that I was elected
Register of Deeds in the northern
District in the County of Hampshire,
which I, with some reluctance, ac-
cepted. This put an end to my pro-
ject of emigrating to the west; but
my predilections for that country
have never ceased; and in later
journeys to that, and the country
further west, one as far as Cleveland
on Lake Erie, I have seen a new
world rising ~~in~~ to compact splendor, beyond
my most sanguine anticipations. . .

Note B. In page 92 notice has been
taken of an extraordinary appear-
ant elevation of a tree, on an island
in Oneida Lake, off Rotterdam, seen
from Fort Brewerton. ~~at the west end~~.
The phenomenon ~~must~~ I think can be
explained, by ~~atmospheric~~ [illegible] refrac-
tion, though Mr. Jefferson, in his notes on ~~[illegible]~~ Virginia, thinks it will not ac-
count for those cases of looming
he have observed.

~~And~~ I regret that we did not ascertain
the real height of trees when we
landed on the Island; and also

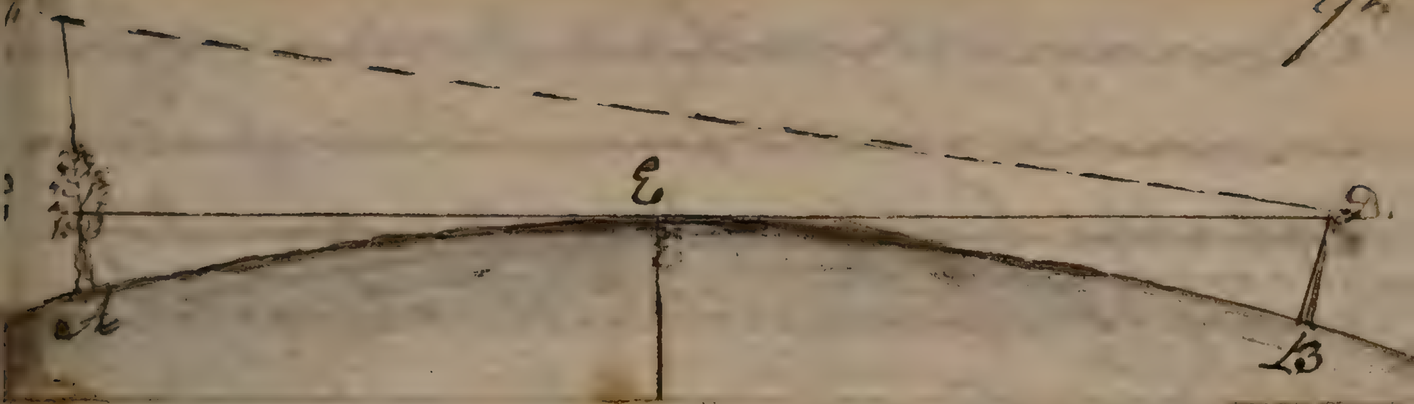
the height of one place of observation above the lake, at fort Brewerton. The distance was very nearly 10 miles, and we shall assume for the height at the fort 16 feet and that of the tree 25 feet which ~~we think are~~ must be near the tree

Let AEB, represent the surface of the Lake; C the Tree, and D the height of the spectator at the fort. By the known rules of calculation, the extent of the horizon of the spectator at D, will be DE = 5,29 miles.

The tangent DE prolonged would meet the tree 14,2 feet from the surface of the water, leaving only the height of 10,76 feet above the tangent, which would subtend but a very small angle hardly perceptible, at the fort.

In obtaining these results no allowance is made for refraction. Let us then see whether the apparent elevation can be explained by this element. And here we must assume a quantity for refraction, as it is variant at different times, depending on the state of the air.

The mean horizontal refraction, as given in the latest tables, is 33'-51" which we shall assume in the present case.




Suppose the point C of the tree, to have been seen in the line, or tangent, DC, by the spectator at D; & CDF the angle = 33' 51" — Then, since CF, it will be —

Rad. : 3200 rods, = 10 miles :: Tang. 33'.51" : 519 feet nearly, or CF, the point C being elevated to F, by refraction; = AC + CF, above the surface of the water. To this must be added the height of the tree above the tangent DC.

It is, however, not to be supposed that the tree could fill the space CF; but the surface of the lake must have had a corresponding elevation, otherwise the tree would appear suspended over the lake: The effect of this refraction also, was to enlarge the apparent horizon of the spectator at D, and to elevate the water above the level of the point D.

The quantity of refraction, in the calculation above, may differ from the real refraction at the time; and probably the angles as well as the results, are too great.

Refraction which produces the phenomenon called looming, often varies, in a short time, as the refractive power ~~density~~ of the air varies; and hence an object will be seen presenting various forms at different times. The atmospheric refraction in its effect on celestial bodies is not subject to such fluctuations. In the case

~~Looming of terrestrial bodies different~~
~~in some respects from that effecting~~
~~celestial bodies. In the form the~~
of looming the body is immersed in the atmosphere and viewed at a distance, the visual ray would suffer no refraction, were the air of a uniform density but in a warm clear sun shining day, the air in contact with the water of a lake or sea becomes cooler than that, some distance above it; and of course is condensed and forms a medium of a greater refractive power; and by somewhat of a similar process, different portions of the lower atmosphere may have different refractive powers.

From these different refractions it is believed, all the phenomena of looming may be explained; even the variety and distortions mentioned by Mr Jefferson; and also the phenomena of Fata Morgana, spectre ships in the air, direct and inverted, and the other curious facts of what is now called the Mirage see the late treatises on Optics. Finis.

(See appendix [illegible])

A new Map of the State of Illinois.

This is compiled from the U States surveys, exhibiting the internal improvements, distances between towns, villages, post offices, the outlines of prairies, woodlands, marshes &c: by J. M. Peck and John Messenger. Published by J. H. Cotton & Co New York 1836.

This map is said to be a valuable acquisition to emigrants as well as to the community at large.

This state, as well as Indiana & Missouri, is now become an object of great interest to people in the old settlements, who are in want of farms for themselves and children. Its distance from New England is somewhat appalling to our people, who, by removing there, suppose they are to take up residences in a wild country far removed from the conveniences of sea ports, and markets. But this is far from being the case. Steam Boat Navigation on the

Mid

Mississippi and its confluent
streams, has almost annihilated the distance
from the sea-coast. St Louis on
the right bank of the Mississippi
in Missouri, has already become
a great mart. In the Daily Com-
mercial Bulletin, and Missouri Lit-
erary ~~Gazette~~ Register, of the 24th
of March 1837. Nine these pages
filled with advertisements of mer-
chants and traders, and city affairs
of St Louis; from which it appears
that every necessary, and even super-
fluity of life, may be obtained at
that place, which is fast filling
up, and must soon become a
great city. An emigrant who has
money, need carry with him no
thing ~~else~~, except his clothing; for
every thing wanted, even to agri
cultural tools, may there be found
to supply all ~~wants~~ demands; and as land
or farms, may be had at a moder-
ate price, no country is more
~~eligible~~ inviting.

The emigrant from the northern
states, before he is acclimated,

may be liable to fevers, which prevail more or less, in all New Countries in our Latitude: But the Country, on the whole, may be as healthy as New England, when it is well cultivated.

By a letter from my son, Arthur, dated St. Louis March 13-1837, he informs that he reached that place the 12th and is engaged in surveying and laying out a Rail Road in Illinois near the City: and, April 11th, I filled a sheet and mailed it for St Louis, giving my views of the Country.

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Illinois River, from Col. Longo — Expedition, 1823. p. 213 Vol. 2.

"Its length from its mouth to its source, at the junction of the Kankakee and De Plaines, is 300 miles. For a distance of 50 miles on the upper part of the river shoals abound, which are serious impediments to its navigation in a low stage of water. The most formidable obstructions of this nature are the rapids situated at the confluence of vermilion river, which are utterly impassable

for boats except in times of flood.
Below this the navigation is exceedingly easy, for boats of moderate draught and burden, to the mouth of the river, a distance of 250 miles. The current throughout the distance last mentioned is exceedingly gentle, often quite imperceptible; indeed this part of the river may with much propriety be denominated an extended pool of stagnant water. Its valley is broad and bounded by parallel ranges of bluffs, presenting, in most places along the margin of the river, low bottoms covered with a dense growth of timber trees, surmounting thickets of weeds, vines & bushes almost impenetrable. The wood lands thus situated are subject to inundations during the prevalence of a moderate freshet, but in the rear, at a considerable distance from the river, are extensive prairies of a rolling aspect, and richly adorned with herbage. The ascent to the highlands, across the bluffs, is generally gradual, but in some instances abrupt." Note Steam Boats ply on the River above 250 miles.

4 "Winter Residence at the West."

This is the title of a Book lately published. It was written by a Gentleman of New-York City, on his tour through the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky, in a series of Letters; part of which ~~is~~ are found in the Rail Road Journal for 1834. They are written in a very pleasing manner, full of interesting incidents, and make up an interesting Vol: And from it much knowledge of the western people may be derived. (From our Social Library)

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5. Chicago.

A Gentleman at this place writes, March 1-1837. "Our intended improvement bill has passed, and received the Governors signature. It is to borrow, on the credit of the State, 8,000,000 of Dollars, as it should be wanted, for the construction of 1015 miles of Rail Road over the Prairies. The Illinois and Michigan Canal, is to be prosecuted with unabated & increased vigor, and every thing looks encouraging with us."

New York Paper.

6. Letter from Illinois Oct 8-1839
This Letter is dated at Springfield, Sangamon County, and written by G. B Perry to his brother F. Perry, and gives information important to emigrants to the country. He says, 100 dollars brings you 160 acres of good Land. Fifty will build a good and convenient Cabin. One hundred and fifty dollars then, will supply you with a good home; your own, in a country destined to be the chief in America. Difficulties attending a ~~[illegible]~~. Many supply themselves with miserable houses. I have slept in things called houses, where I could throw my hat between the logs, and roll about ~~[illegible]~~ waging war with a host of flies and bed bugs. Holes are dug for water, then left unstoned, or unbricked. The use of the water is unpleasant and unhealthy. Those who thus abuse themselves become sick, and can you wonder? In similar circumstances would not any one, any where, become sick? Females suffer the most from these guilty neglects. I unhesitatingly say, off

from the rivers, with the same snug houses with the same stone walls with the same general care, (all of which are within reach) as good health may be here enjoyed as any where else.

There is a want of saw mills, but this deficiency is in a degree obviated by the riving-iron and shaving knife. Excellent framed houses are readily procured, but it is not easy to obtain sawn boards. It would surprise and delight you, to see with what facility a good substitute is found. The timber generally is straight, handsome and noble, reaching often 30, 40 and 50 feet clear of limbs, which is sawn into 4 or 6 feet, then rived into slabs of any thickness you please. They split free and even, and are dressed on one side, and joined on one edge, with a shaving knife. When nailed to the studs of the frame and painted, it would puzzle you to tell them from sawn and planed clap boards. Shingles are made in the same way. The country abounds with lime, so there is no necessity of having poor houses

It is downright laziness or a criminal compliance with a bad custom, that every family has not a comfortable dwelling. True, stones are scarce, but it is not difficult to make brick, in my judgment not half the work it is to dig stones, blow rocks, and haul them.
In the older counties there is a good supply of mills of every description. The deprivations which immigrants suffer, the writer considers imaginary, such as elegancies in buildings and furniture, to which they had become attached by habit. All that is wanted in this respect, is easily obtained.
Advantages: He asks. Is it not easier and more congenial to the "comfort of the flesh", to plough out your corn by the strength of the horse, than hoe it "by the strength of the arm"? to have broad meadows for your meadow and pasture, where you are always sure of sufficient hay and grass,—of getting an old farm in two or three years, instead of having to cut down trees, and roll logs ten or fifteen years—pull up

stumps for 40 more; — dig stones —
out bush — cultivate and haul out ma-
nure per annum, *forever*?
A few years will tell you, and *so* tell
you that you will believe it, that the
Mississippi valley governs the American
world. I say not this, because I have
personal interests to promote by having
it so; but merely because I am soberly
convinced it will positively be *so*.

*Remarks.* An emigrant with 1000 Dollars
and a family of hearty boys, industrious
and temperate ~~will~~, by purchasing a
hundred or two hundred acres of land,
~~adjacent~~ heart clay prairie, embracing some
woodland, will undoubtedly render him-
self independent within 3 or 4 years.
But before he is acclimated, he must
expect to be visited with some of the
sicknesses of the country; and perhaps
fevers will always be more preva-
lent there, than in the hilly countries
of more northern latitudes. The ground
is evidently a mass of alluvion of great
depth: the wells therefore will not af-
ford so pure water as in more broken
countries, and the miasma will be
more deleterious. In wooded countries

10) the new settler has to perform the herculian tasks of clearing his farm as well as erecting his buildings; have the prairies are ready for the plow and scythe, and by fencing he can cultivate his land at once. You do not clear ground for pasture, the prairie furnishing all he wants. In case of settling on a prairie the settler should early start to plant trees about his house for shade and ornament, and as timber will soon become an object of importance he would do well to plant them in various places on his farm.

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7 Illinois Settler. Letter from. William Cyrus of Greenfield, Illinois communicates the following to Buel's Cultivator.

I have bought 200 acres of Land here on String Prairie, at 3 dollars pr. Acre. 160 acres of Prairie, and 40 of timber land 5 miles off. Partly improved farms sell from 5 to 15 dollars pr. Acre. I'm pleased with his selection for the following reasons. 1. Land is cheap or had any other place. 2 It is nearly

all owned by individual settlers.
3. Its healthy. I reckon we are 100 feet higher than the waters of the Illinois river. 4. The face of the country is beautiful. There are roads in every direction without any labor but travelling them. 5 Nearly all our fields and principal roads have right angles. 6 There is but little waste land. 7 The climate is delightful. 8 Slavery is prohibited. 9 Temperance society is flourishing. 10. The soil is rich and productive. Melons grow enormously large; Corn becomes like a forest, 10 or 15 feet high, with ears 20 or 30 rows on the cob; grapes are abundant and delicious, apples fine; we abound in wild turkies, venison, rabbits &c. Our stone is in quarries. I can get raw limestone broke up at 2 dollars per acre. The soil is generally black and from 2 to 10 ~~feet deep~~ feet deep; much of it 12 feet."

"A Garden surely! But the want of good well water & spring and the distance of the timber lands, are inconveniences, to say the least.

# Failures among Merchants.

Our papers are filled with accounts of the failures of the merchants in our principal Cities. The fire begun in New Orleans and has extended northward; the great, the prosperous City of New-York, seems to feel the calamity with severity; and our Boston is not exempted.

To what is this owing? The answer is easily. Too many people are rushing into our cities to engage in trade and speculation upon borrowed money. Men of little or no property are dealing in 100's of 1000's, and depending on bank-loans; and when these cannot be had, the cry is money is scarce, while every article of luxury is at the highest price; and money has in fact depreciated from a surplus of [illegible]. I hope we will be taught by this state of things, viz. That the most true and safe way of living is to cultivate the earth, and promote the necessary mechanic Arts, upon a moderate scale.

The truth is, the Country is in a State

~~Note C~~

~~A~~ Three years subsequent to my (journey to and) residence in the Genesee Country, Alexander Wilson the ingenious Ornithologist, in a pedestrian excursion from Philadelphia to Niagara, passed through the Cayuga marshes, and took quarters for the night at the humble cottage at Mosquito Point, noticed in my Journal page 64. ~~To those fond~~ The account of his excursion ~~is~~ is given in his pleasing poetry, under the title of "The Foresters", which was inserted in Dennie's Port Folio. vols. 1. 2. & 3.

To those fond of ~~the~~ wild scenes of nature, where displayed in new Countries, the Poem cannot fail of being highly interesting. Finding the Poet on the route, part of which I passed, his descriptions were peculiarly pleasing to me, and brought back recollections of scenery, which I might otherwise have lost.

In what estimation the fastidious critic who has stuffed his head with Grecian Mythology, and poetical rules, ~~rules, [illegible] trochees, spondees, dactyls~~ &c. ~~of the ancients~~ may hold the Poem is with me a matter of indifference. It is enough that Wilson describes scenes

as they strike the eye of the ~~observing~~ ~~man~~ ~~who is~~ traveler who is charmed with the appearances of nature, and impresses his mind with useful reflections and lasting reminiscences.

Poetry confined to ~~the~~ rigid rules ~~of criticism~~ may display the ~~[illegible]~~ shell of the scholar; but if it savours much of the lamp, and fails to touch the heart open to the beauties of nature and philosophic reflections, it is of little worth.

Burns was aware of this, when he exclaimed—

Gie me ae spark o' nature's fire!
That's a' the learning I desire;
Then tho' I drudge thro' dub and mire
At plough or cart,
My muse though hamely in attire,
May touch the heart.

This spark o' nature's fire is the chief element in poetry, & Wilson's contains much of it. When ~~the~~ a writer does not possess ~~this fire~~ it, prose is to be preferred; and for myself I prefer the latter in all cases ~~of~~ for sober description. But I would not deny to those, who possess this fire, ~~the~~ its free use ~~of it~~ where it offers its aid.

With a companion and a guide, Wilson commences his journey at Philadelphia, and passes through German

town, ~~and~~ Easton and across the Country to Susquehanna River; thence to the head of Seneca and Cayuga lake, and down the latter through the Cayuga marshes, by Seneca River, to Oswego, ~~noticing~~ noticing the natural features and curiosities of the Country as he passed. He then continues his route by Lake Ontario & Niagara river, to the ~~and~~ falls, and gives a description of the latter, with two views, which were inserted in the Portfolio.

Bucks County in Pensylvania is represented as a fertile & well cultivated country, where "lofty barns abound"

Full fields, snug tenements, and fences neat,
Wide spreading walnuts drooping o'er each gate;
The spring house peeping from enclustered trees,
Gay gardens filled with herbs, and roots and bees,
Where quinces, pears, and clustering grapes were seen,
With ponchous calebashes hung between;
While orchards, loaded, bending o'er the grass,
Invite to taste, and cheer us as we pass.
But these too soon give place to prospects dreare,
As o'er Northampton's barren heights we steer.

Notwithstanding the mountainous & barren aspect of the County of Northampton its Swabian inhabitants are said to be

4 "Averse to change, pleased patiently to plod
The same dull round his honest father trod".

The simple furniture of their low roofed houses is thus descr

"Those plates of pewter, ranged along the frame,
In ancient days from distant Feuchland came.
That oaken table, so uncouth and low,
Stood where it stands some sixty years ago.
In his arm-chair where Hans delights to snore,
His Great-Grandfather nodded long before."

After passing mountains, hills, and dreary swamps, the travel
~~[illegible]~~ find themselves in the vicinity of the Susquehanna

"And now Wiomi opened on our view,
And, far beyond, the Alleghany blue,
Immensely stretch'd; upon the plain below,
The painted roofs with gaudy colours glow,
And Susquehanna's glittering stream is seen
Winding in stately pomp through valleys green".

The massacre of the Americans near this place, in 1778 by British and Indians, under the refugee Butler, and ferocious Brant, is thus noticed.

"Now up green banks, through level fields of grass,
"With heavy hearts the fatal spot we pass

when

"Where Indian rage prevailed, by murder fir'd,
And warriors brave by savage hands expir'd;
Where bloody Butler's iron hearted crew
Doom'd to the flames the weak submitting few;
While screams of horror pierc'd the midnight wood,
And the dire axe chank deep of human blood."

The scenery of the Country on the River, and the rude condition of the inhabitants are thus described

"By Susquehanna's shores we journey on,
Hummed in by mountains over mountains thrown;
Whose vast declivities rich scenes display
Of green pines mix'd with yellow foliage gay;
Each gradual winding opening to the sight
New towering heaps of more majestic height,
Grey with projecting rocks; along whose steeps
The sailing eagle many a circle sweeps.
Few huts appeared; the wretched few we spied
Seem'd caves where sloth and poverty reside;
The ragged owners happier far to hear
Men, boys, and dogs arouse the bounding deer;
In fluttering rags, with scarce a hat or shoe,
Down the rough steep the roaring chase pursue.

To tree the bear; the midnight wolf to watch;
Mink, otters, possums, or racoons to catch;
The bloody panther boldly to destroy,
Their highest glory and their greatest joy.
While round each hut the richest soil is seen,
Bleak squalid wretchedness is found within,
Filth, want, and ignorance from sire to son,
The sad attendants of the dog and gun;
As sage experience long ago has said,
A good amusement, but a wretched trade.

The following description of the Rattle-snake is highly appropriate, as all who have traversed the woods where the abound must acknowledge.

'Twas now deep noon, the winding pathway led,
Beneath tall maples near the rivers bed,
Where moss-grown logs in mouldering ruins lay,
And spice and dogwood fring'd the narrow way;
The scarlet berries clustering hung around,
And mix'd with yellow leaves bestrew'd the ground;
There glistening lay, extended o'er the path,
With steadfast piercing eye, and gathering wrath,
A large grim rattle-snake, of monstrous size,
Three times three feet his length enormous lies;

His pointed scales in regular rows engraved;
His yellow sides with wreaths of dusky recaved;
Fix'd to the spot, with staring eyes, we stood!
He, slowly moving, sought th' adjoining wood;
Conscious of deadly power, he seemed to say,
'Pass on; in peace let each pursue his way:
But when th' uplifted musquet met his view,
Sudden in sounding coils his form he threw!
Fierce from the centre rose his flatten'd head,
With quivering tongue and eyes of fiery red,
And jaws extended vast, where threatening lay
The fangs of death in horrible array;
While pois'd above, invisible to view,
His whizzing tail in swift vibration flew.
Back spring our band! and aiming to let fly,
Glan'd o'er the deadly tube his vengeful eye;
And now destruction seem'd at once decreed;
But Duncan's pleading check'd the barberous deed.
'O spare the brave!' our generous pilot cried
'Let mercy, sir! let justice now decide;
'This noble foe, so terrible to sight
'Though armed with death, yet ne'er provokes the fight;

Stern

'Stern, yet magnanimous, he forms his den
'Far from the noisy dangerous haunts of men.
'Th' unconscious foot that presses him he spares,
'And what was harmless meant, forgiving bears;
'But dare his life. — Behold, he rises brave,
'To guard that being bounteous Nature gave.
'Use are the aggressors here; the Hero his;
'Honour the brave defence of one to three!'
He spoke. Three cheers the voice of Mercy hail'd;
And heav'ns glorious attribute prevail'd. —

The pleading of Duncan was forcible; but such is the dread of this serpent when prepared for battle ~~with~~ the 'fangs of death' displayed, or suddenly approaching him in the woods, ~~that~~ few have ~~the~~ calmness to to reflect on ~~this~~ attribute of mercy. A vigorous stroke of the staff suddenly ends the contest. Is this dread natural, or does it arise from habit superinduced by education?

Passing Tuckhannoc creek, the pedestrians took lodgings at a — miserably furnished hut, destitute of every ~~thing~~ save fire and wood. The following conversation with the owner, is amusing, as well characteristic of many of the

the frontier pioneers. Enquiries ~~are~~ are made, concerning the County of ~~the~~ daddly Squares," who broiling his brawny limbs before the fire. ~~xxx~~ ~~across the country~~ answers very cheerfully.

"What Township's this old daddy? Why—hm—well;
Township? The dickens, sir, if I can tell;
Its Pennsylvania though. Right daddy squares.
Who are your nearest neighbours? Why the bears.
No mill or school house near you? Yes we've one;
Beyond the Church a piece, on Panther's Run.
Is church far distant daddy? Why—hm—no;
Down Susquehanna, twenty miles or so.
You go to preaching then? Be sure; that's clear;
We go to mill and meeting twice a year.
No curiosities about? Why—yes;
You've brought a few of them yourselves, I guess.
What dollars? Aye, and fippenny bits I swear
Are downright rarities among us here.

The journey is continued up the river through a new country but little frequented by civilized men; and as the pedestrians steer their course

"Each opening turn, each dark recess survey,
"Each mouldering heap that round tumultuous lay,

"As o'er those alpine steps we slowly past;
But all was silent, solitary, vast!
No sound of distant farm assail'd the ear;
No rising smoke; no opening fields appear;
But each high summit gain'd, the eye was shown
Hills pil'd on hills in dreary prospect thrown".

At length a sign-board is seen, suspended over the road, the characters portrayed so imperfectly with blackin[g] perchance from soot, that it could not at first be deciphered.

"At length we spell this precious piece of lore,
Pat Daugherty's Hotel and Drygood store!!

The precious contents of the store are enumerated
"Three long tobacco pipes the shelf adorns;
Two rusty penknives fit to serve your corns;
One rag of calico in musty folds;
A stick of liquorice-ball for coughs & colds;
And half a keg of brandy, glorious cheer!
Arrived from Philadelphia one a year.

Assembled about the door ~~a mingled group~~, were do[gs,]
cows, hogs, pigs & fowls, and men in mingled group[s,]
not very inviting to the traveller, and a lodging in the
woods was preferred, to this brandy sty. They ~~became~~

at length arrived at a more decent hut, ~~[illegible]~~ took up night quarters, and the next morning pursued their route

"All day up winding solitudes we past,
Steep hung o'er steep, as if at random cast;
Through every opening, tow'ring groups were seen
Piled to the clouds, with horrid gulfs between;
One vast pre-eminent ascent we scal'd
And high at last its lone summit hail'd.
Then as we trod along, fatigued and slow,
Through parting woods the clouds appear'd below,
And lo! at once before our ravished view,
A scene appeared astonishing and new.
Close on the brink of an abyss we stood,
Conceal'd till now by the impending wood,
Below at dreadful depth, the river lay,
Shrunk to a brook 'midst little fields of hay;
From right to left, where in the prospect led,
The reddening forest like a carpet spread,
Beyond, immense to the horizon's close,
Huge amphitheatres of mountains rose.
Charm'd with this spot, our knapsacks we resign'd;
And here like gods, in airy regions dined;

Like

Like gods of old the cordial cup was quaff'd
Songs sung to liberty, and joh'd & laugh'd;
Huzza'd aloud — then listen'd from on high
If haply slumbering Echo would reply,
Along dead pause ensued — at once the sound
In tenfold shouts from distant hills rebound,
Not Polyphemus' self e'er louder roar'd
When burning goads his monstrous visage gor'd
Huzza! huzza! the echoing mountains cry
Huzza! huzza! more distant hills reply,
And still more distant, till the faint huzz
In lessening shouts, successive, died away.
Surprise'd, astonish'd, heedless of our meal
We seiz'd our muskets for a noble peal,
Fill'd their dark bowels with the glistening grain
And, facing, pointed to the ~~sentended~~ scene
Then at the word their fiery thunders pour
That through the wide expanse impetuous roa
Deep silence hung — The loud returning roar
From bellowing mountains thunders o'er & o'er
Peal after peal successive bursts away,
And rolls tremendous o'er the face of day;

From hill to hill the loud responses fly,
And in the vast horizon lessening die.

After more than a quarter of a minute, as the poet states in a note, the sound was reverberated with astonishing increase, at least ten successive times, each time more and more remote, till at last it seemed to proceed from an immense distance. The word, or words were distinctly articulated, as if giants were calling to one another from mountain to mountain.

Positions are sometimes found where echoes are heard with surprise by ~~those~~ one who first ~~[illegible]~~ witnesses them; from 17 to 20 or more syllables have been distinctly ~~heard~~ repeated. They are caused by reflection from surfaces situated at different distances. If a reflecting surface be at the distance of 1142 feet, the echo will be heard within two seconds; but if ~~the reflection~~ it be from one surface to another, and there to several others, before it returns to the place where ~~it~~ the sound is first produced, the time of the echo will be more or less according to the distance from the ~~last~~ reflecting surfaces. The sides of houses, hills, precipices, banks of earth and the surface of water, all produce echoes if properly situated in relation to each other. But echos are not heard in ~~the~~ places where the surface is perfectly level, or at sea distant from land. (bomb shell used in coasting)

The journey is continued up the river over hills and through dales covered with woods, until, reaching, a dwelling appeared, of a character very different from the cabins they have before visited;

"A painted frame, tall barracks filled with hay,
Clean white-wash'd railings rais'd along the way,
Young poplars, mix'd with weeping willows green,
Rose o'er the gate, and fring'd the walks within;
An air of neatness, gracing all around,
Bespoke that Courtesy we so quickly found;
The aged Judge, in grave apparel dress'd,
To cushion'd chairs invites each weary guest;
O'er rich carpets bids the table rise,
With all the sweets that India's clime supplies;
And supper served with elegance, the glass,
In sober circuit was allowed to pass.

Quitting this happy mansion early in the morning, they continue their route.

"Here rich flat meadows most luxuriant lie,
Some glowing orchards gladly we espy,
Full-loaded peach trees drooping hang around,
Thin mellow fruit thick scatter'd o'er the ground.

"Still journeying on, the river banks we keep,
And pass the narrows high and dangerous steep,
That to the clouds like towering Alps soars
While deep below the precinct river roars,
Beyond its eastern stream, on level lands,
There Athens (once Tioga) straggling stands.

The country around is represented as considerably cultivated, and pleasant cottages, log-built, appear:

"Here down green glades, the glittering streams descend,
Here loaded peach trees o'er the fences bend;
Deep flowery pastures clothe the steeps around,
While herds repose, and playful coursers bound,
The groaning cider-press is busy heard,
The fowls loud cackling swarm about the yard,
The snowy geese harangue their numerous brood,
The flapping flail re-echoes through the wood,
And all around that meets the eye or ear,
Proclaims the power that spreads its influence here.
Hail Rural Industry, man's steadfast friend,
To thee each virtue must with reverence bend,
To thee what heart denies spontaneous praise,
From gloomy woods such glorious scenes to raise!

Great giver of God's gifts to man below!
Through whose ~~rough~~ hard hand all human blessings flo[w]

~~Chemung~~ With the prospects of the Country the travellers pass forward along rich fields, until Chemung's "huge barns and fertile farms are seen". The Poet here introduces reflections upon the ~~former~~ state of the Country while in possession of the aborigines.

"Have changed those scenes from what so late they wa[s]
Ere Freedom's banners waved triumphant here!
While o'er our coasts a powerful foe prevailed,
Here from behind the savages assailed;
In bloody bands ransacked our weak frontier,
Fire, rapine, murder, marked their fell career;
Amid his corn the gasping planter fell,
Deep sunk the axe and dismal rose the yell;
The midnight cottage, wrapt in sweet repose,
In flaming ruins with the morning rose;
There slaughtered corpse, babes and fathers lay,
Their naked mothers driven mid fiends away.
To thee, brave Sullivan! who scourged this crue[l]
Thy country's gratitude shall still be due;
And future ages on these summits rear
Honours to him who planted freedom here.

Sullivan } notice of.

"We pause to mark amid this valley green,
How changed the tenants, how improved the scene!
Where wretched wigwams late like kennels stood,
Where bark canoes stole skulking o'er the flood,
Where mangled prisoners groaned, & hatchets glared,
And blood stained savages the fire prepared,
There glittering towns and villages extend,
There floating granaries in fleets descend.
There ploughmen chaunt, and mowers sweep the soil,
And taverns shine, and rosy damsels smile;
Thanks to the brave, who through these forests bore
Columbia's vengeance on the sons of gore;
Who drove them howling through the affrighted waste,
Till British regions sheltered them at last.
Here on the heights, where, suddenly array'd,
These hordes their last despairing effort made,
Where still the mouldering breast work meets the view.
From whose defence as suddenly they flew.

In this allusion to Gen. Sullivan's expedition against the Sixnations in 1779, the Poet is disposed to give this general more credit than some of our Historians. The fact is, the expedition has never been fairly & fully detailed by any. Gordon's account is

is absolutely ridiculous, and seems intended only to de-
stroy the military character of Sullivan. There ma
have been faults in the expedition; but in conversa
with officers who served under him, none have men-
tioned to me any that were material. The march
through the country were made with caution, an
the object completely effected. It has been said th
destruction of Indian property was unnecessarily sev
and particularly in the cutting down of the fruit
trees found at the Indian villages. Of this perh
we cannot well judge at this day; and it is no
obvious that the sprouts from the ~~trees~~ stumps have been ~~are~~ m
valuable than the old trees which escaped the
axe.

The description of Newton (now Elmira) on the Teog
is glowing.

"When opening hills, retiring, wide display,
On level plains a City rising gay;
Rang'd on the northern bank, so smooth & green,
Rich busy stores and waving signs are seen;
With crowded boats that here for freight attend,
And deeply loaded to the sea descend.

With lingering steps the busy streets we trace,
Pleas'd with the prospect of this glowing place;
Though now so gay, scarce fifteen years have flown
Since two log huts were all that it could own,
Since waving reeds and scrubby ground-oak grew
Where stores and taverns now arrest the view.
Around the tree where panthers lurked for prey,
Now evening groups of laughing children play;
And churches neat their pious crowds enclose.
Where Indian fires and midnight yells arose.

The parting of Susquehanna and Seneca waters, is thus noticed.

"Here, when descending rain in torrents pour,
And the broad meadows float from shore to shore,
In two wide routes their waters seek the main;
Part through St Lawrence meets the sea again,
Part to the south pursues its wandering way,
And rolls to Chesapeak's capacious Bay."

The Poet states that a species of Salmon common to the river Susquehanna and to Lake Ontario, has been frequently known to pass from one to the other, by this communication.

The travellers now approach the Great swamp, south of Seneca Lake.

Now

"Now darker before us gulfs of pine are seen,
That bear the name still of their Indian queen;
Great Catharine's Swamps, that dripping round us lie
Down whose dim glooms we awfully descend,
Around us thick the crowding pillars soar,
Surpassing all we ever viewed before,
So straight, so tall, so towering, side by side,
Each, in itself, express the forests pride,
A thousand fleets, with twice ten thousand more
May here find masts in everlasting store.
All day through this deep swamp, in splendid
Beguil'd in mire we labour'd on till night.
When lo, emerging from the opening woods
'Midst narrow fields a little cottage stood!
A mill hard by in clattering murmur play'd;
Before the door a rapid rivulet stray'd;
Trees round the garden hard with apples hung,
And cows and sheep their tinkling music rung.
Sacred to peace it seem'd, and calm repose,
And here well pleas'd, our nights retreat we chose
Approach'd the door, presented our request,
The dame's kind looks already bade us rest;

"And soon the Landlord, entering with his train,
Confirmed his kindness o'er and o'er again;
And now the table shewed its welcome load,
With charming fare, and rival dainties spread;
Green sparkling tea, observed with floating cream,
Delicious Salmon from the neighbouring stream;
Nice cakes of wheaten flour, so crisp and good,
And piles of honey-combs, ambrosial food!
While in the cheerful looks of all around
"A still more pleasing, grateful welcome found".

Quitting this hospitable cottage with thriving and paying "a lively vale with lawns and pastures gay", the pedestrians reach the town of Catharine, situated near the southern extremity of Seneca Lake, one of the most delightful spots, containing many dwellings, large orchards, and cornfields;

"Surrounding hills this peaceful place inclose,
"And form a scene of Scotland sweet repose".

This was an ancient Indian town totally destroyed in 1779, by the troops under Gen. Sullivan, who entered the place in the night, after a dangerous march through the great Catharine swamps †.

Our Poet here indulges in a few sympathetic lines

† See Note A at the end of the Poetry

on the exiled Indian, and his once favorite home.

"Ah! melancholly scene (though once so dear)
To the poor Indian haply wandering here,
Whose eye factour, amid the gushing flood,
Beholds the spot where once his wigwam stood,
Where warrior's huts in smoky pride were seen,
His nation's residence! his native queen!
Methinks, even now, where yon red maples play,
The black hair'd wanderer slowly bends his way.
And pensive stops, and heaves the stiffled sigh
As well known objects meet his rueful eye;
No words escape him, but, while memory grieves
"These gloomy thoughts his burden'd heart relieve

The following soliloquy of the Indian is apposit—

'O happy days! forever, ever gone!
When these deep woods to white men were unknown
Then the Great Spirit gave us from on high,
A plain broad path, and an undoubted sky;
Then herds of Deer in every thicket lay;
Peace blest our nights, and Plenty crown'd our day
But now, dark clouds around our nation roave
The path is lost! we see the sun no more;

'A poor lone wanderer here unhappy raves,
Return'd once more to see his father's graves;
Where all he sees bereaves his heart of rest,
And sink like poison'd arrows in his breast.
'Here stood the tree, beneath whose awful shade,
Our aged chiefs the nation's welfare weigh'd;
In these sweet woods my early days I spent,
There through the hare, the quivering arrow sent;
Or, stealing wary by that creek so clear,
Transfix'd the struggling salmon with my spear.
'Here rose our fires in many a towering flame
When the young hunters found abundant game;
The feast, the dance, whole days and nights employ,
These hills resounding with our screams of joy.
There on that bank our painted warriors stood,
Their keen knives redden'd with the white men's blood;
Now all is lost! and sacrilege is spread!
Curst ploughs profane the mansions of the dead;
Our warriors wander on a distant shore,
"And strangers triumph where they begg'd before."
Indignant sorrow rushes on his soul,
And in wild agony his eyeballs roll;

wrath

Wrapt in his rug, the forest he regains,
A homeless exile on his native plains.

Before leaving Catherine's town, the Poet made a hunting excursion on Catherine's Creek which forms the head waters of Seneca Lake, ~~[illegible]~~. The creek is described as navigable for loaded boats ~~[illegible]~~ to the landing five miles from the lake.

"Through this sweet vale that wooded hills enclose,
A clear deep stream in glassy silence flows;
There sportive trout disturb the dimpling tide,
And shoals of Salmon, pike and suckers glide,
Thick vines and sycamores in rich array,
Bend o'er its banks, and mark its winding way
Gigantic walnuts, bare and blasted, rise,
And stretch their bleached arms midway to the skies
There sits the hawk, inured to feasts of blood,
Watching the scaly tenants of the flood;
Or listening, pensive, to the distant roar
Of yon white falls that down the mountain pour
Thence to the lake broad level marshes spread,
Where close rank reeds conceal the mushrat's bed,
Above around, in numerous flocks are seen
Long lines of ducks o'er this their favorite scene;

Some to the lake in wedged divisions bend.
Some o'er the creek in lengthened showers ascend.
A skiff once paddles near the landing lay,
Two stripling's proffer'd to conduct the way,
Fix'd in the bow for slaughter I prepare,
The deadly barrels ready pow'd in air;
Slow round an opening point we softly steal,
Where four large ducks in playful circles wheel,
The far fam'd canvas-backs at once we know,
Their broad flat bodies wrapt in pencill'd snow;
The burnished chesnut o'er their necks that shone,
Spread deepening round each breast of sable zone;
Wary they gaze — our boat in silence glides
The slow mov'd paddles steal along the sides;
Quick flashing thunders roar along the flood,
And three lie prostrate vomiting their blood!
The fourth aloft on whistling pinions soar'd,
One fatal glance the fiery thunder pow'd,
Prone drops the bird amid the dashing waves,
And the clear stream his glossy plumage laves.
Now all around us rising trains appear,
Wild whistling wings on every hand we hear!

Th

The alarm of death, amid their legions spread,
In files immense they winnow overhead;
Hoarse honey geese scream up the distant sky,
And all the thunders of the boat defy;
Close under rustling vines, we shuddering glide
Till the loud ~~thunder~~ uproar and alarm subside;
Here grapes delicious, clustering, hung around,
The mother vines through bending birches wound;
Not richer ripen on Vesuvius' side,
Than here spontaneous nodded o'er the tide.
Now all again is silent and serene,
Slow glides our skiff along the glassy scene,
O'er the flat marsh we mark the plovers sweep,
And clustering close, their wheeling courses keep,
Till like a tempest, as they pass us roar,
Whole crowds descend, to rise again no more;
Prone on the sand, the snowy tribes are spread,
Then hove on board, and piled among the dead.
Beyond a point, just opening to the view,
A flock of ducks collect their scattered crew,
But soon alarm'd, with sudden splattering soar,
The rest remaining seek the farther shore;

There, in a niche, concealed by sheltering vines,
Down the smooth tide I view their floating lines,
With sudden glance the smoky vengeance pour,
And death and ruin spread along the shore!
The dead and dying mingling, float around,
And loud shoutings of my guides resound.

The excursion proved very successful —

Two snow-white storks, a crane of tawny hue;
Stretched their long necks amid the slaughter'd crew.
A hawk whose claws, white tail, and dappled breast
And eye, his royal pedigree confest,
Snipes, splendid summer ducks, and divers wild,
In one high heap, triumphantly I piled.

The poet with his heavy load of game at his back, ~~then~~ hastened to join his companions; who had proceeded on the route ~~ahead of them~~.

"And ten long miles in doubt and danger past,
I reach'd my comrads and the road at last,
While peals of mirth succeeding their amaze,
They shar'd my load, and loaded me with praise."

The route is continued across the country towards the head of Cayuga lake, and the travellers, overtaken by night are bewildered in the woods, and compelled their "dubious course to steer".

'Then

"Then through the forest wrapt in deepest shade,
Beneath black arms of towering oaks we strayed,
At solemn intervals the peace profound
Disturbed by rattling nuts that dropt around,
Shrill, wildly issuing from a neighboring height,
The wolf's deep howlings pierce the ear of night;
From the dark swamp he calls his skulking crew,
Their nightly scenes of slaughter to renew;
Their mingling yells sad savage woes reprimp,
And echo droning through the dark recess.
Steady along through swamps and pools we roam
The weary worn foresters fatigued and faint,
Scrambling o'er fallen logs that featured decay,
Or stumbled by viewless boughs that cropped our way.
While glowing round, through roots and stumps decayed
Phosphoric lights their pallid gleams displayed.
Sudden a horrid human shriek we hear,
That shot its terrors through our startled ear;
'Ha! are you there! the watchful Duncan cry'd
'Halt! fix your bayonets, and look out a head!'
A second scream announced the panther nigh,
The dark woods echoing back the rueful cry;

Still as the grave, suspending every breath,
Steady we stood to mark its passing path,
Prepar'd, and eager for one deadly aim,
To pour destruction through its tawny frame;
But vain our listening; nothing seem'd awake,
Save the lone murmur of the neighbouring lake;
All else lay dead and silent as before;
And even the distant wolf was heard no more.

The travellers at length descry a distant light from burning woods, and soon after, a ~~hospitable~~ hospitable cabin, where they are kindly received and entertained:

"By bawling calves and jumbling bells awoke;
We start amaz'd to see the morning broke,
Such blest oblivion balmy sleep bestows,
Where toil-worn Industry & Peace repose.
Geese, turkeys, ducks, a noisy numerous brood,
Mingle thin gabblings with the echoing wood,
Through whose tall pillar'd trees, extending blue,
The lake Cayuga caught our ravish'd view.
Soon on its oak-crown'd banks sublime we stood,
And view'd from right to left, its lengthen'd flood,
Of vast extent, pure, glassy and serene,
The adjacent shores and skirting hosts were seen,

The

"The eye could mark the whitened farms, the ear
Faint sounds of barking dogs remotely hear."
There being a water passage from this place (now Ithaca)
to Oswego, and thence to Niagara, a light boat was
procured; and bidding adieu to their hospitable
friends, the travellers proceeded down the lake.

The oars
(…)

The Boatmen now, the oars resounding play,
Fleet through the unruffled flood in scour away
Till evening sweet suspends her starry veil,
And all around her sparkling orbs prevail.
There, high in front, the Bear's bright splendors glow
His answering gleams gild the deep below.
Profound and vast, and as on a (…) glide
Dance on the bosom of the dimpling tide
Lone night and listening silence seem to sleep
On the smooth surface of the glistening deep;
Save where the ducks in rising thousands soar
Leaving the dark expanse with lengthened roar,
That like a cataract bursts from legions near
And dies in distance on the vacant ear.

Duncan amuses the company with songs to which
"From neighboring shores, and cliffs that o'er them rise
"The listening spirit of the lake replies,

An

"And in responses sweet, and accents plain,
Repeats each period of the inspiring strain.
Now like dull stars the lighted bridge appears,
Beneath it soon our little vessel stuns,
Where snugly moor'd we pass away the night,
And weigh'd next morning by the peep of light."

The bridge extended across the lake and was about a mile in length; much used by the western travellers before the grand canal was constructed through the marshes below.

"Here the clear lake contracts its straightened floods
And winds a deepened stream through level woods;
In vain our tow'ring mast for sounding tries,
Beyond its utmost depth the bottom lies;
Yet so transparent its pure waters flow
We mark'd the smallest leaf that lay below.
Ducks, whistling past, like meteors fill the air
Our fatal guns pursue them deadly there.
Glanc'd from the eye the thundering tubes rebound;
Fluttering they face, and flap, and swam around.
Here from the shore, low marshes wide expand
Where bear and bleak the little saltworks stand,
Beneath mild sun shine as we onward glide,
Flat moss-clad forests rise on either side;

Hugh

"High midst the leafless multitude is seen
The dark majestic pine in deepest green;
The snow white sycamores, that love to drink
The passing stream, and skirt the rivers brink,
Wide o'er the flood thin arms capacious, throw,
To meet their softened forms that lie below.
Still files of clucks in streaming thousand pour,
At every bend their rising torrents roar,
Till, near Musquito Point their flocks decrease
Where night o'ertook us and we moored in peace.
High rose its banks, and on its rugged height,
A small log hovel shone with glimmering light,
Here one lone woman and a boy we found,
The Trapper absent on his usual round,
On board his skiff had sail'd six days ago,
To try his luck some twenty miles below.
This solitary hut, small, cheerless, rude,
Amid vast swamps and wilderness stood,
Where nightly horrors banished oft repose,
Such savage cries from wolves and panthers rose;
Even round the bolted door, the woman said,
At midnight frequent, she could hear their tread.

The fire blaz'd bright; around us we survey'd
The pendent furs with which it was array'd;
A sacred horse-shoe, guardian of the whole,
Terror of Spirits prophane, and witches foul,
Dread, powerful talisman 'gainst imps unknown!
Nail'd o'er the door in silent mystery shone.
Just as the dame her glowing hearth had clear'd,
The ragged owner of the hut appear'd,
Laden with skins, his traps around him slung,
Two dead raccoons across his shoulders hung;
Muskrats and 'possums in each hand he bore;
A large brown Otter trail'd along the floor;
And as he sous'd them down with surly gloom,
The skunk's abhorr'd effluvia fill'd the room.
'Friends, how d'ye do? Well wife, how come you on?
How fare the calves? Why three of them are gone!
Three! — D—n these wolves! they'll eat up house and all!
And have they kill'd the sheep? They have. What all?
Yes all! — I thought it would be so.
Well, — now they're — at the devil, let them go!
So said, he whets his knife to skin his store,
While heaps of red raw carrion fill the floor.

The Poet here indulges his risibles at the expense of the ~~tr~~tippler and his cabin; and ^it is true^ the description given of the latter answers to ~~the~~ ^its^ appearance when I was at the place in 1801, even to the "pendent fumes," which seemed to be his staple commodity, then held at a round price. The "sacred horse-shoe" over the door was not observed. I found the tippler at his cabin then kept as a tavern for boatmen, employed on the river, and he appeared ^quite^ attentive to his customers, especially so far as related to his love, and there was no want of cleanliness in his business. His accommodations, it is true, were scanty, and his single floor furnished the ^only^ lodgings; but what he had was readily applied to the accommodation of his guests, and I had no reason to complain of his rude manners.

Much of the pleasure of travelling depends upon the disposition of the traveller. If he be patient, in good humor with himself, and at ease, he will generally find himself comfortable, even among people of rude manners. By a certain conciliating conduct, he will gain their esteem and meet with kind treatment, and often secure and faithful friends.

At early dawn the ~~[illegible]~~ travellers left mosquito point and proceeded down Seneca river, past Cross lake and several rapids, and at length reached Ontario lake, at Oswego. Much of the scenery I had noted on the ~~[illegible]~~ route as far as Three River point, is omitted by the poet; his remarks are general.

"O'er these lone swamps the Muse impatient flies.
Where mightier scenes and nobler prospects rise,
Nor stoops, in dull rehearsal to detail
Each roaring rapid and each adverse gale,
What vagrant tribes, what islands met our view;
How down Oswego's foaming Falls we flew,
Now plunging in our sinking bark to save,
How headlong hurried down th' outrageous wave;
How through the clear still flood, with sounding oars
We swept, and hail'd with songs the echoing shores.
These had their pleasures, and perhaps their fears;
But terrors fly when daring courage steers.
A thousand toils, a thousand dangers past,
The long-expected Lake appears at last,
Seen through the trees, like Ocean's boundless blue,
Huzza! huzza! Ontario is in view!

"Here, ere we launch the boundless deep along,
Surrounding scenes demand their share of song.
Mark yon bleak hill, where rolling billows break,
Just where the River joins the spacious lake,
High on its brow, deserted and forlorn,
Its bastions levelled, and its buildings torn
Stands Fort Oswego; there the winds ~~that~~ blow
Howl to the restless surge that groans below;
There the lone sentry walk'd his round; or stood,
To view the sea-fowl cowering o'er the flood;
Midst night's deep gloom shrunk at the panther's howl
And heard a foe at every whooping owl.
Blest times for soldiers! times alas, not near,
When foes like these are all they have to fear;
When man to man will mutual justice yield,
And wolves and panthers only stain the field.
Those straggling huts that on the left appear,
Where boats and ships their crowded masts ~~appear~~ uprear,
Where fence, or field, or cultured garden green,
Or blessed plough, or spade were never seen,
Is old Oswego, unrenowned in trade
Where numerous tribes their annual visits paid
Ou

Old-Oswego is represented as a very dissipated place, where

The boistrous boatman, drunk but twice a day,
Begs of the landlord; but forgets to pay;
Pledges his salt, a cask for every quart,
Pleas'd thus to poison, with his pay to part.
From morn to night here noise and riot reign;
From night to morn 'tis noise and roar again.

The passage from Oswego to Niagara is now attempted by water in the small open boat; but the weather becoming boistrous the passengers at length embark on board a sloop bound to Queenstown, and after a rough voyage, reach that town, whence they proceed on foot to the grand cataract. The principal incidents of the voyage are thus related.

Around us now Ontario's ocean lay,
Rough rose its billows, crowned with foaming spray,
The grim north-east in roaring fury blew,
And our frail barks, deep dashing, laboured through;
Our blanket sail, and feeble sapling mast,
Drank the rough waves, and quivered in the blast;
A kindly sloop for Queenstown harbour bound.
While night's foul hurricanes were gathering round;

Beheld our danger, saw our numbers few,
And, for our boat, received its willing crew;
Both safe on board, they trim their thundering sail
The boom and main-sheet bending to the gale.
Hard by the helm th' experienced master stood
And fast to windward eyed the whitening flood;
Saw in the east the coming tempest lowe,
On night's black wings impetuous to devour.
The roaring bow the boiling spray divides,
Two foaming torrents sweep along the sides.
Reef after reef retrench the straining sail,
And the rack'd vessel staggers in the gale;
Now up th' outrageous wave's high steep we go,
Now plunge down headlong in the gulf below,
Slow rising, shivering through tempestuous clouds,
That howl'd like demons in the whizzing shrouds.
Down in the cabin, by the uproar driven,
Heedless of all the warring winds of heaven,
Sick, groaning, speechless, and unfit to pray,
Our three pale foresters inglorious lay;
Groan answered groan; while, at each desperate
The deep bilge water chorn'd and roar'd below.

Sad night of sickness, tumult, fears & hopes
Of roaring surges, and rattling ropes,
Heart rending retchings, tossings to and fro,
And all the horrors land-born lubbers know,
At length the morn arose — the storm withdrew,
And fair the breeze with steady vigor blew."

The vessel ascends the River to Queenstown where the passengers disembark and proceed on foot up the river. On the eminence above Queenstown village, a fine northern view is presented of the Country and Lake, of which the Poet gives the following picture.

Far in the east Ontario's waters spread,
Vast as the ocean in his sky bound bed,
Bright through the painted plain that lay between
Niagara's deep majestic flood is seen;
The right a wilderness of woods displayed,
Fields, orchards, woods, were on the left arrayed.
There near the lakes green shore, above the flood,
The tall, white, light house like a column stood;
O'er each grim fort, high waving to the view,
Columbia's stars and Britain's crosses flew.
There two stern champions watch each others eye,
And mark each movement ready to let fly

This height has since been rendered memorable from the battle that there took place in 1812, in which the British General Brock was killed, and a large monument since erected on the ground, to his memory.

On approaching within a few miles of the cataract the Travellers, with their ears open to catch its sounds, were disappointed at the silence which prevailed:

"Though five short miles ahead,
All sounds were hushed and every whisper dead.

At length, as they neared the falls,

"Deep through the woods a rising storm they hear.
And "Th' approaching gust still louder and louder grows.
"~~[illegible]~~
"Awe struck sensation now all speech represt
And expectation throbbed in every breast.
Nure from the woods, emerging into day,
Before us fields, and farms, and orchards lay.
The sloping hills a hollow vale disclose
Whence hurrying clouds of boiling smoke arose
Till in one congregated column thrown
On whose bright side a glorious rainbow shone.

with uproar hedious, first the falls appear,
The stunning tumult thundering in the ear.
Above, below, wherever the astonish'd eye,
Turns to behold, new opening wonders lie,
Till to a steep's high brow unconscious brought,
Lost to all other care of sense or thought;
There the broad river, like a lake outspread,
The islands, rapids, falls, in grandeur dread,
The heaps of boiling foam, th' ascending spray,
The gulf profound, where dazzling rainbows play
This great, o'erwhelming work of awful Time,
In all its dread magnificence sublime,
Rose on our view, amid a crashing roar
That bade us kneel, and Time's great God dare.

After viewing the falls from the high brow, and table rock on the Canada side, the Poet & his companions descend the ladder into the profound abyss below the fall, and passing up to the falling sheet of water, enter the cavern between it and the perpendicular wall of rock, where "Eternal rains and howling whirlwinds sleep:" The adventure is represented as rather hazardous from the slippery rocks & whirling currents of air

The view from below is thus given –

"High in our front th' outrageous river roar'd,
And in three separate falls stupendous pour'd;
First, those Fort Slusher's down was seen to roam
In one vast living sheet of glittering foam;
On its south side a little islet towers,
There one small pitch o'er broken fragments pours;
Goat-Island next, with oaks and cedars crowned,
Its shelving base with dreadful shrubbery bound,
Along the brink a rocky front extends
Four hundred yards, and at the Horse-shoe ends.
There the main force of the river pours;
There, from above, the rushing rapids roar!
The mighty watery mass, with tops of green,
Flung down the impending brink unbroken thrown,
Whiten'd amidst dazzling hills of boiling spray,
In raging, deafening, torrents, roars away!
Great God of nature! whose blest sun and showers
Call'd into action these tremendous powers,
Where shall my tongue fit form of language find
To speak the dread sensations of the mind,
When o'er the impending brink, in bounding sweeps,
The eye pursued this deluge to the clouds, send

"Saw its white torrents undulating pour
From heaven to earth with deafening crashing roar,
Dash'd in the wild and torn abyss below
Midst dazzling foam and whirling storms of snow,
While the whole monstrous mass, and country round
"Shook, as with horror, at the o'erwhelming sound!"

In many particulars the Poet's description is just, and raises sensations natural on the first ~~view~~ sight of the falls. A general view is given and another of the falling sheet of water, seen from below. But a horizontal plan and several profiles of the descent, would add much to the accuracy of the description.

On viewing the falls from both sides of the river, I noticed one particular, not readily explained: the descent of the water at the pitch, instead of 160 feet, appeared much less, not exceeding 70 or 80. My scale must have been contracted throughout the view, and the fall apparently diminished.

The height of the fall has often been determined by careful observations with good instruments, and probably is accurately given. Indeed the perpendicular

circular ~~[illegible]~~ descent may be measured with a cord let down from the table rock, at the pitch of the fall, on the Canada side of the River.

As there are considerable settlements on both sides of the river in the vicinity of the falls, the scene has, in a degree, lost it wildness, and probably does not strike the eye with the same amazement it did ~~that~~ of the early travellers. The object is, however, is grand, and will always excite the attention of the curious. The view from the Canada side is to be preferred, as here the whole cataract ~~may~~ is seen at once, to great advantage from a handsome elevation near the pitch of the fall.

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Note A referred to page 21. Catherines town is said to named from a half bred indian woman Catherine Montowe who was a native of Canada, her father having been one of the early French Governors — probably Count Frontenac as he must have been in the government of that country at about the time of her birth. During the wars of the six nations with the Canada indians, Catherine then about 10 years of age was taken capture, carried to the Senecas country and adopted & received as one of their children. She married one of the Chiefs & had several children. After her husbands death she remained a widow; she is said to have been handsome & polite & known to the ladies of Philadelphia, where she attended [illegible] ~~See Note B~~

# Contents


1 A Journey to Genesee in 1801 with an appendix — 1
2 New Map of Illinois — 97
3 Illinois River, from Col. Long — 99
4 a Winters Residence in the West — 101
5 Chicago - provisions for Rail Roads. 101
6 Letter from Illinois, of 8-1836. — 102
7 Illinois Settler, letter from — 106
8 Feelings among Merchants 108


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- mercantile phrenzy. Trade and speculation have absorbed every thought, and we have forgotten that man is to live by the sweat of the brow. It is time for thinking men to set their faces against the principles and extravagances of the times; and bring back the light hearted [part 101] community, to the simple wants of nature. Let the farmer avoid these principles - pursue a steady course in his business, and he will be safe and let others, who are rushing into trade & speculation on borrowed money learn, that they must abandon the chimera, and ply their hands to more safe employments

Dr Henry Stover, resides at Fremont, Tazewell County, on the River Mackinaw, State of Illinois. From Newton, Massachusetts. Deceased 1837